

Mr Gromyko accuses Mr Vance of 'cheap trick'

Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said yesterday that the Russians were still hopeful of strategic arms agreement with the United States despite the failure of this week's Moscow talks with Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State. But he accused the Americans of "a cheap trick" one of their proposals.

Russians still hope for arms pact with US

From Our Correspondent

Moscow, March 31

Optimism on prospects for eventual strategic arms agreement between Russia and the United States was voiced today by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, despite the rejection yesterday of America's latest proposals.

His statement came one day after the tough stand by Mr Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, who had rejected the ideas put forward by Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, and only hours after Mr Vance left Moscow for Bonn and London to report on the negative outcome of his four-day visit.

At his first Moscow press conference in 17 years—the last one was in 1960 after the conviction of Mr Gary Powers, the American U2 spy pilot—Mr Gromyko said the Soviet leaders still had plenty of patience and were prepared for negotiations whenever they seemed likely to succeed.

Asked for his reaction to President Carter's statement that in the event of failure he would advocate pressing ahead with development of new weapons, the Soviet Foreign Minister said that Mr Carter would be doing that on his own responsibility, "whereas the Soviet Union would make every effort to reach agreement."

He justified his refusal even to discuss Mr Vance's proposals on the grounds that they violated both the letter and spirit of the 1974 Vladivostok agreement by seeking to exclude the American Cruise missile from the projected reduced ceilings. At the same time, he denied that the Soviet Backfire bomber

was capable of being used as a long-range strategic bomber capable of delivering nuclear warheads.

The Soviet Union, he said, was being asked to liquidate half of its missiles "just because someone does not like them". As for the American proposal on modernizing missiles, this was nothing but "a cheap trick" again intended to place the Russians in an inferior position.

Mr Gromyko went on to make a long series of proposals for arms control and reduction which he said the Soviet negotiators had initiated but the Americans had ignored.

Progress had been made on other issues such as the ban on bacteriological warfare and the non-proliferation agreement. There would also be another chance to discuss the strategic arms deadlock when he met Mr Vance in Geneva in May.

Asked whether the controversy with Mr Carter over human rights had contributed to the failure to reach an agreement during the Vance visit, Mr Gromyko said that what poisoned the atmosphere certainly had not helped.

"We do not try to teach others how to solve their internal problems, and we do not allow others to interfere in ours."

Moscow, March 31.—Mr Gromyko, in one outburst during his press conference, declared angrily: "It is being said by the other side that in Moscow a broad programme of disarmament was put forward and that the Soviet leadership did not accept it. That does not correspond to reality. It is an intrinsically false version."—Reuter.



Mr Vance, on his way home from Moscow, with Mr Callaghan at 10 Downing Street.

Carter warning to Russia on new weapons wins praise in Congress

From Fred Emery

Washington, March 31

President Carter's statement in his proposals on arms reductions—meaning, he explained, to keep at it with "strong negotiations" until the Soviet Union came round—won widespread applause today from both parties in Congress.

There was little acceptance of "failure" of Mr. Vance's Moscow conference. Unstated is the belief that the Russians have been put on the spot for refusing a fair attempt at actual disarmament.

Those, like Senator Hubert Humphrey, who most favour arms reductions, agreed with President Carter that the Soviet leadership needed time to digest his "drastic" and "radical" proposals for missile reductions.

Others, like Senator Henry Jackson, who are sceptical of the Soviet arms build-up, coolly appraised the situation as typical of the Soviet "testing" of a new President.

Some Republicans tended to emphasize Mr Carter's suggestion that his present restraint on new American weapons might not last beyond the next meeting of Mr Vance with Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in May.

At the conclusion of his bas-

tily called press conference last night Mr Carter said: "If we feel at the conclusion of next month's discussions that the Soviets are not acting in good faith with us, and that an agreement is unlikely, then I will be forced to consider a much more deep commitment to the development and deployment of additional weapons."

The clear threat to accelerate the development of the new B1 strategic bomber aircraft and the MX mobile intercontinental ballistic missile, is what some hardliners feel to be the only language the Russians will understand.

Some news commentators take a different view. In the Washington Star Mr Henry Bradsher noted that the Carter proposal boiled down to an American promise not to build future weapons in exchange for a Russian halt to and eventual scrapping of present systems. They might have overwhelmed them.

A leading article in *The Washington Post*, tentatively suggested that the bloated appearance of Mr Brezhnev, which so startled Americans in Moscow, suggested deeper aims and the possibility that Moscow was coming to grips with a leadership crisis.

Mr Vance in London, page 8

Leading article, page 15

Parliamentary report, page 5

'Chaos' fear if garages repay duty

By Roger Vialvoys

Energy Correspondent

Up to £15m worth of excess duty on petrol sales will be refunded by the Board of Customs and Excise to oil companies if moves to reject the Chancellor's Budget proposals on fuel taxes succeed on Monday.

But motorists must insist on a receipt for petrol bought before Monday if they want a chance of getting their share of the £15m back again, the oil companies say.

Shell said there would be "absolute chaos" if retailers had to give refunds of duty on petrol they had sold since the cost of their new deliveries of oil went up on Tuesday night.

Initial stages of the refunding process will be easy, the Treasury says. If the vote to confirm the 5p a gallon increase in duty is lost the customs and excise will repay all the excess to the oil companies, who collect it on their behalf.

The big companies say they will be morally bound to repay any excess duty they have retained from retailers.

Legally there is no obligation on oil retailers to make any refund. Department of Prices and Consumer Protection said yesterday: As there is no maximum price for petrol, retailers can charge what they like for fuel, provided motorists will pay.

But oil companies expect their dealers to pay back customers who can prove with a receipt that they bought petrol that included the excess duty.

Lib-Lab talks to avoid petrol price trap

By Michael Hatfield

Political Reporter

While ministers were exuding an air of confidence that the Government would avoid the trap awaiting it on Monday in the Budget vote on petrol prices, the Liberal Party, which has registered opposition, was not so sure.

Both sides are trying to reach an agreement and Mr Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, had a meeting with Mr Pardoe, Liberal spokesman on Treasury affairs, yesterday. Last night Mr Pardoe said no accommodation had been reached they were still negotiating.

The Liberals are demanding that the motorist should be freed from the duty increase of 5p a gallon, although they accept the increase on heavy oils. Negotiations have been complicated by the fact that both increases are contained within the one resolution.

The same complication applies to the increase in excise duty on cars, from £40 annually to £50, which the Liberals oppose, and the increases on heavy goods vehicles, which Mr Steel and his colleagues accept.

Mr Pardoe said last night that he expected consultations with the Government to continue over the weekend. Ministers are treating Monday's vote, on whether to approve the duty increases which would bring in £460m in revenue, as one of the highest importance. Defeat would create enormous administrative and legal difficulties, but the Government will not treat it as a vote of confidence.

The committee has also raised no objection within specified quantities in about 370 flavourings, colourings and other substances being added to tobacco. They have been used for 20 years in Europe or the United States without any evidence that they add to the ill effects of smoking.

But about 30 other proposals from companies for marketing tobacco products containing additives that either lack a history of long-term use or

New £800m gilt issue as MLR is cut to 9½pc

A full point reduction in minimum lending rate to 9½ per cent and a new £800m gilt-edged issue were announced yesterday. The cut in lending rate is designed to bring it in line with prevailing money market levels, but the bank makes it clear that it is anxious to moderate the accelerating fall in interest rates ahead of negotiations for a new pay policy and to deter embarrassing inflows of "hot" money from abroad.

With the Liberals apparently having shifted their emphasis during the day from the question of the rural areas to the motorist in general, it was not thought last night that two proposals the Government is about to bring before the Commons will have any bearing on Liberal demands.

The first is the Passenger Vehicle (Experimental Areas) Bill, which originated in the Lords, allowing experiments in four designated rural areas on different methods of public transport, including car-sharing, taxis and mini-buses.

The second measure is a White Paper on transport, which will include a section on rural transport, including probable recommendations to give more flexibility in the licensing system for public transport.

Our Parliamentary Correspondent writes: A revolt in the Labour ranks became apparent last night when Mr John Ryman, MP for Stock, said that he defected to a increased tax on petrol and would support the Government on the proposal. It was incongruous that the motorist was again going to bear an intolerable additional burden.

He also deplored the increase in the road fund licence to £50.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Leading article, page 15

Dr Kaunda blames West for Soviet successes

President Kaunda of Zambia says in an interview with *The Times* that the West, and particularly Britain, has only itself to blame for the spread of communist influence in southern Africa and the "approaching conflagration" there. The West's failure to end white minority rule had left blacks no choice but armed conflict, in which they were supported only by the Eastern block countries.

Japan orders trawlers to leave Soviet coast

Japan broadcast an emergency warning to its fishing fleet to leave its traditional grounds off the Soviet Pacific coast by midnight last night. Talks with Russia on a new fishing agreement had deadlocked over Japan's claim to four islands occupied by the Soviet Union at the end of the Second World War.

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Tenerife 'TV' inquiry

The leader of the United States team investigating the Tenerife air disaster said they intend to check our report that there might have been a television set in the airport control tower when the crash occurred. Black boxes and voice recordings have left for examination in Washington.

P. 8

Pub profits scrutiny

Prices and profits in Britain's 75,000 public houses and bars are to be examined by the Price Commission. Mr Eversley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, making the announcement, welcomed the commission's findings on soft drinks and "mixers".

P. 4

NUS bar on 'fascists'

The National Union of Students voted to maintain its policy of actively discouraging "racist and fascist" speakers. Its conference at Blackpool rejected a move by the executive to allow a "moderate" speech by such speakers. Voting was 182,330 to 154,033.

P. 7

Deportation appeal

The promised Commons debate on the planned deportations of Mr Philip Agee and Mr Mark Hosenball was postponed for Tuesday. The Government said, but the fact that Mr Hosenball is taking his appeal to the House of Lords on Monday will prevent it from taking place.

P. 4

Court blames AA

The House of Lords said that a tactic used by the Automobile Association to obtain higher costs for its solicitors in recovering small sums for members involved in accidents was a misuse of the process of the court. Law Report, page 12

P. 12

EEC butter veto

The European Commission has let it be known that it will prevent fresh sales of subsidized EEC butter to Russia. West German suppliers are negotiating the delivery of 35,000 tonnes to Moscow, but the Commission is against further sales to East European countries at the EEC taxpayers' expense.

P. 8

Miners oppose curb

Scottish miners are seeking support from the Executive of the National Union of Mineworkers for rejection of the social contract. Mr Gormley, the union's president said the Chancellor could not continue to make tax concessions conditional on wage restraint. He would not recommend phase three of his members.

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Christmas complaint

The CBI has complained that Christmas and New Year Bank holiday plans will hinder production.

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False applications

An inquiry into the offices of the Islington North Labour Party has upheld allegations of false membership applications.

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South Africa: Threat of confrontation between Government and white labour unions over Bill of Rights

Bill of Rights

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New York: Losing battle being fought in Bronx and Brooklyn against arson

P. 9

Ethiopia: List of 755 wanted men and women is passed up by military rulers

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Holidays in Greece: A four-page Special Report on facilities for tourists who plan to visit resorts on land and sea

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Financial Editor: Here comes the floatation bond

Diesel hopes at Lucas; householding expectations and London Brick

Business features: The effects of the Budget measures on the road transport industry are discussed by Michael Baily; Kenneth Owen on the development of solar energy cells; Patricia Tidal looks at the prospects for substitute tobacco in Britain

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Business Diary: Resumption of the Eurovision song contest sets record producers' hearts singing

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Reviews: Silver streak, Jagger, Pleasure for Her Majesty's and others

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Sir William Ennys Williams; Sir Anthony King

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Entertainment: The breakdown of the

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Racing: Report and prospects from Grand National meeting

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Football: Norman Fox on British

Business News, page 13-25

Stock markets: Share prices fell on profit-taking and the FT Index closed 7.8 lower at 419.4. Gilt

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Art: David Robinson at the new films

P. 16

Books: Chess

HOME NEWS

Scottish miners seek leaders' support for end to social contract

By Paul Roudledge

Scotish miners are leading a political onslaught on the Chancellor's efforts to agree with the TUC on a third year of pay restraint. They are seeking and may get, support from the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers for rejection of the social contract.

Mr William McLennan, Communist secretary of the Scottish miners, said yesterday that his area leadership would reject Mr Healey's offer of tax concessions in return for another round of income policy. "I would hope that the trade union movement will reject the blackmail that Healey's bait entails", he said.

The miners' executive meets on April 14, the day after the TUC economic committee considers the Budget. NUM leaders will have before them a resolution from the Scottish miners suggesting that they should break away from the constraints of income policy. Mr Gormley, the union's president, said yesterday that he had called the Chancellor's "blackmail" story "no chance of succeeding". "He can't keep trying to make tax concession conditional on restraint", he added. "What is he asking people whose wages are

not negotiated by unions to do? I will make no effort to sell phase three to my members."

That will be the view taken by Mr Gormley in discussions within the TUC economic committee, of which he is a member. It also seems certain that it will be the attitude of the miners' policy-making conference in the summer. All four resolutions on the preliminary agenda from moderate and militant areas call for rejection of the social contract, which is seen as synonymous with wage restraint.

The miners are also tabling a resolution for the Scottish TUC opposing wage restraint. The Scottish congress has no executive power but exercises considerable influence.

On Sunday, British Leyland shop stewards are to hold a mass conference in Birmingham Town Hall to mobilise shop-floor opinion against a renewal of the pay policy, and more than a thousand shop stewards are expected to attend. The conference is certain to support an unofficial call for a one-day political strike on April 20 against the social contract, timed to coincide with the day Parliament reassembles.

Overtime ban by Nalgo over cash cuts

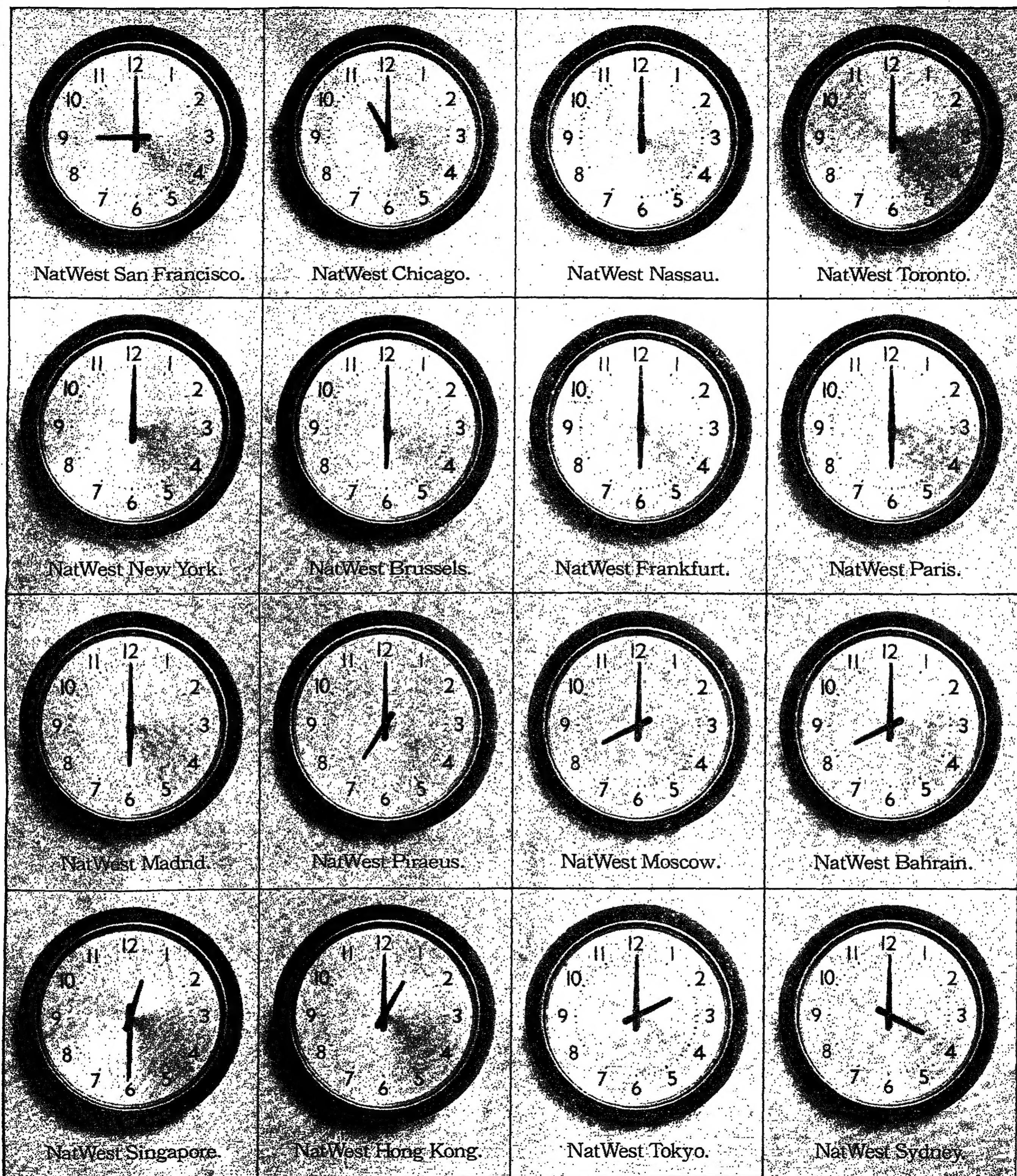
By Our Labour Reporter

An overtime ban by the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) starts today in protest at cuts in public spending.

The ban, approved by a special one-day conference of the union in London, is proving unpopular in some quarters and may be reversed at the annual conference in June.

Guidance on the ban has been sent to branches throughout Britain. They will have discretion to make arrangements to avoid danger to life and limb.

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Clockshow Times 1976/77

HOME NEWS.

Prices and profits in public houses and bars to be examined

By Ronald Emmer
Business News Staff

Prices and profits in Britain's 73,000 public houses and bars are to be examined by the Price Commission. That was announced yesterday by Mr Hartersey, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, who welcomed the commission's findings on soft drinks and "mixers" sold on licensed premises. The study will be made by widening the scope of the commission's investigation into beer prices.

In its report, published yesterday, the Price Commission recommends that bar prices for mixers such as tonic water should be "reduced by at least 2p". It suggests that manufacturers and licensees could ensure that by joint action.

On mixers, the commission said that for the public to compare the price of a 40z bottle of tonic water in a public house at about 12p with the 81p normally available in most supermarkets and grocers for about 91p was unfair.

There are "widely differing overhead expenses and profit margins" in the two kinds of establishment, the commission says, but points out that the average gross margin on mixers is 54 per cent (effectively a "mark up" of well over 100 per cent) compared with a margin of 49 per cent on spirits and 33 per cent on beer.

Soft Drinks and Mixers in Licensed Premises, Price Commission report 23 (Stationery Office 60p).



Painting returned: Lady Spencer-Churchill, who is 92 today, had an unexpected birthday present yesterday with the return by a London dealer of one of the paintings sold at auction last month to help meet her living expenses (our Arts Reporter writes). Mr Roy Miles took it round to Lady Spencer-Churchill's flat and had tea with

her while the picture, one of her favourite works, painted by Sir John Lavery and showing her with her daughter, Sarah, in 1915, was rehung in its old position in the hall outside her room. Mr Miles is letting Lady Spencer-Churchill have the painting, part of which is shown above, on loan for her lifetime.

Debate on Hosenball case has to be cancelled

By David Leigh
Political Staff

The skirmishing between the Home Secretary and the two men he is trying to deport on national security grounds took a new turn last night. The Government announced that the promised debate on the Agee-Hosenball affair would take place on Tuesday but on Monday it will have to announce that the debate is off because Mr Mark Hosenball is to appeal to the House of Lords that day.

Labour MPs who have been supporting the two men were angry last night at what they saw as an attempt by the Home Office to bring pressure on Mr Hosenball into dropping his next round of legal action.

Mr Hosenball, aged 25, was accused of obtaining information for publication harmful to national security and prejudicial to the safety of servants of the Crown. An American, he has worked as a journalist in Britain for some years. He wrote for *Time Out*, a London weekly magazine, mixing information on events, theatre and cinema with offshore and investigative journalism along left-wing lines.

Mr Agee, aged 41, was accused of maintaining regular contacts with foreign intelligence agents, disseminating information harmful to Britain's security and aiding others to

Parliamentary report, page 6

Doctors worried over use of potent drugs

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

Doctors are becoming increasingly worried about the use of the potent drugs now available: The Royal College of Physicians held a press conference yesterday about the testing of new drugs and responsibility for, at times, unforeseen effects.

Sir Eric Scowen, chairman of the Committee of Review of Medicines, said new monitoring systems were being considered and consultations were taking place with the industry,

whether all practitioners are equally competent to handle every new potent substance immediately after its introduction."

D. G. Davey, formerly research director of ICI pharmaceuticals division, said metabolic investigation must be done in rats and dogs and later in man. That was worrying and the time had come to review toxicity-testing procedure. The present way of doing some carcinogenic tests and the interpretation given to positive results in animals were unreal and had little relevance to what would happen in man.

Wine waiters paid only £12 a week*

Les Ambassadeurs, a private luncheon and dining club in Hamilton Place, Mayfair, paid wine waiters a basic wage of only £12 a week, an industrial tribunal in London was told yesterday. It rose to £18 in April, 1976, but was still below the legal minimum of about £23, it was stated.

Mr Umberto Berlen, aged 40, an Italian wine waiter from Chelsea, was appealing to get

his job back at the club. He was dismissed for allegedly "reeking of garlic", being rude to a customer, serving wine over the wrong shoulder and bursting into a private meeting with wage inspectors.

Mr Berlen said he joined the Transport and General Workers' Union in March, 1976. Others joined a few days later. He continued: "Three or four weeks after I joined they said I should be ten leader. The club

The hearing continues on May 10.

Knightsbridge 'maisonette' fetches £1.2m

By Our Estates Correspondent
A price of £1,200,000 has been paid for the penthouse and a large part of the flats in the Knightsbridge Lodge, the block of flats built in Knightsbridge, London. The sale is to a Swiss company, but it is understood that it will be carried out by a single buyer. When completed, the maisonette will provide up to 17 bedrooms, six reception rooms, 11 bathrooms and two kitchens, depending on layout.

Garrison, which acted with Aylesford in the sale for Trafalgar House Developments, says more than two-thirds of the block, due for completion next March, has been sold or reserved.

Cars blown off M62
Several cars were blown off the trans-Pennine M62 motorway near Huddersfield, by high winds yesterday. No one was injured.

More home news, page 7

New compensation code for Northern Ireland proposed

By Our Legal Correspondent
A proposed new code laying down the criteria to be applied in assessing compensation to be paid to people whose property is damaged by criminal acts in Northern Ireland was published yesterday.

The draft order contains provisions extending the ambit of the Criminal Injuries to Property (Compensation) Act (Northern Ireland), 1971, the existing legislation on the subject.

The proposed order would make compensation payable where damage was caused by any organization engaged in terrorism. Under the 1971 Act only damage done by officially proscribed terrorist organizations could become the subject of a claim.

In determining whether compensation should be paid and how much, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland would become entitled to take into account circumstances such as whether the applicant had made unlawful use of the property; whether he had behaved provocatively or negligently; whether he had taken reasonable precautions to avoid damage to his property; and the degree of help he gave towards arresting the offender.

The draft order follows the report of a committee, chaired by Sir James Wade, which looked into the 1971 Act.

The group will comprise people with practical experience, including members of the social services, community health councils, voluntary organizations and the Health Advisory Service. Names will be announced shortly and Mr Ennals expects the group to report to him next year.

In a Commons written reply he said the group would examine particularly management difficulties of hospitals and units concerned with mental illness.

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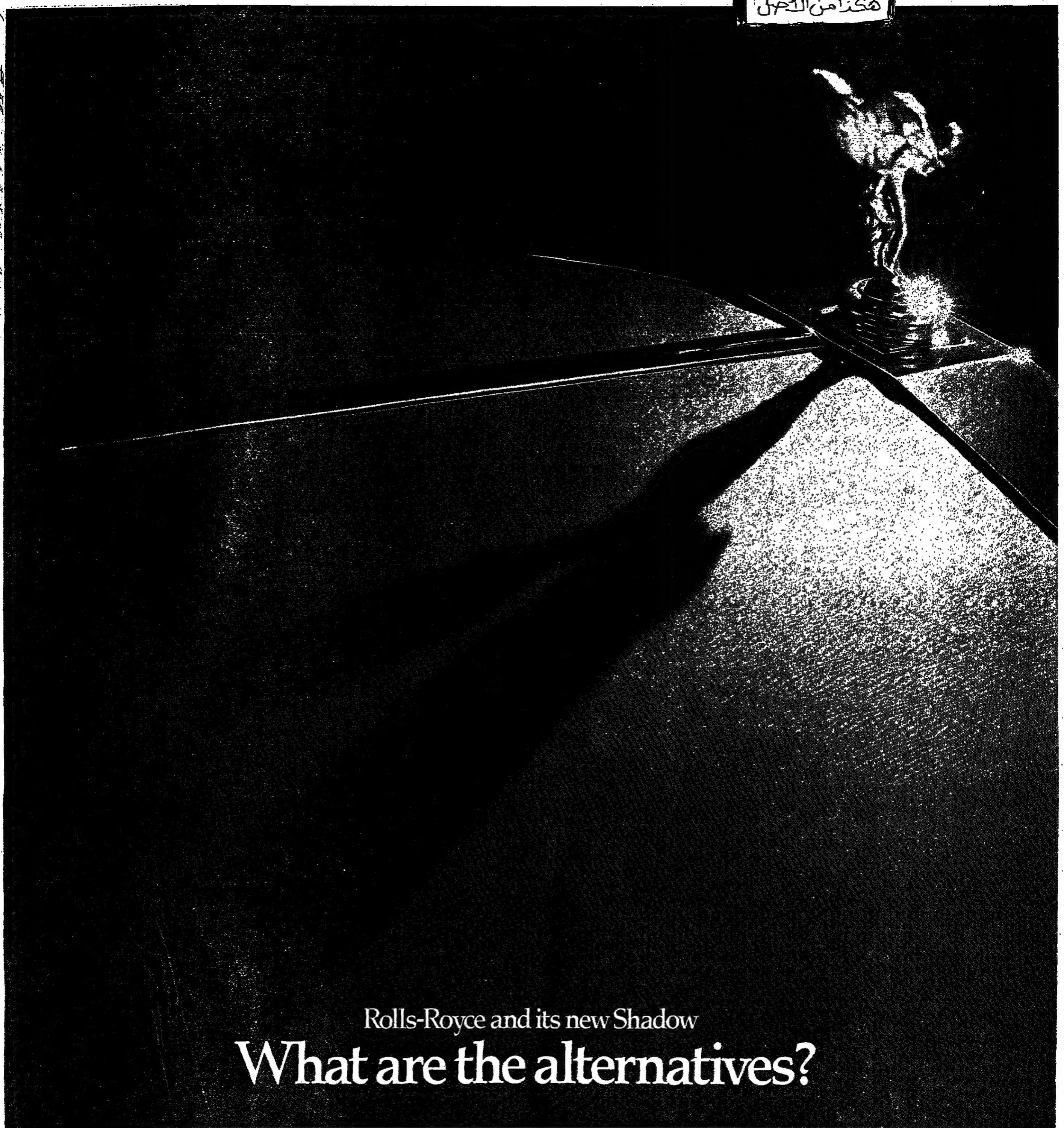
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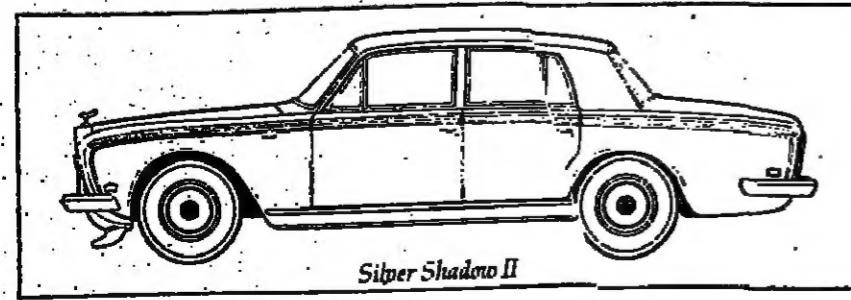
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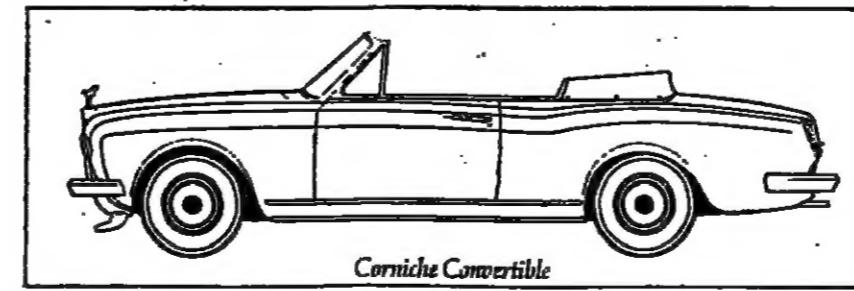


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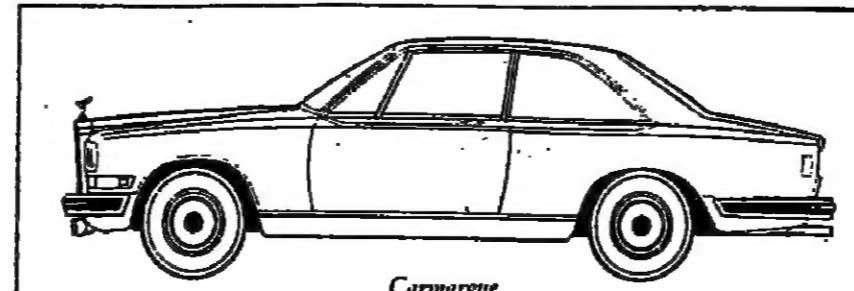
The Silver Wraith has an even larger rear passenger compartment than the Shadow, is available with or without a division, and has automatic air conditioning. The rear window is smaller for added privacy and the roof is covered in leathercloth.

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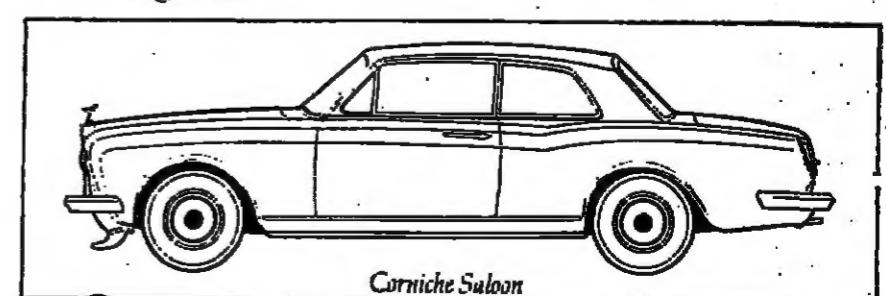
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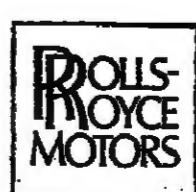
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PARLIAMENT, March 31, 1977

Conservative MPs pursue Mr Callaghan in vain over Labour-Liberal agreement

House of Commons

Despite angry Conservative protests, the Prime Minister failed to answer a number of questions relating to the Labour-Liberal agreement. He said that he did not propose to discuss inter-party relations in the House.

Mr Michael Garry (North-West Surrey, C) suggested the Prime Minister should make another broadcast because there was a lot of doubt in people's minds about the precise financial situation between the cordial agreement between the Liberal and Socialist parties.

What is the (asked) the joint executive committee? Is it a secret talking shop? Does it have executive powers? Will its minutes be published? What has it decided over the petrol tax? People want to know.

Mr Callaghan—After my two broadcasts last week, which met with generally favourable receptions, I would be happy to take up further invitations.

Having watched the two Budget broadcasts—the executive committee of the Chancellor and the feeble reply given last night—I am content to leave it to judgment between the two teams.

As for other matters which Mr Garry raised, he has overlooked the answer I gave on this matter on Tuesday.

Mr Robert McCandie (Brentwood and Ongar, C)—If the Prime

Minister broadcasts on the Lib-Lab manifesto will he contradict the leader of the Liberal Party (Mr Steel) who suggested that one of the benefits is that we shall not be having nationalization of the banks and insurance companies.

That was not in the Labour Party manifesto and therefore we would not be doing anything in the House. Parliament—He has overlooked the answer I gave on Tuesday, Conservative protests and cries of "Answer."

During later questions on the responsibilities of the Patronage Secretary, the Government Chief Whip, Mr Michael Cooks.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thanet, East South, Lab)—The Prime Minister is not feeling a little bit sorry for the Patronage Secretary who, like everyone else, seems to have been taken for a ride by the increasingly dubious nature of the Lib-Lab alliance?

The answer has been had by one of the first firms to sign up with the Liberals, namely the document submitted to him by the Liberals on the Liberal terms for devolution. It has today been discovered not to have been written by the Labour Party (Labourists). In his House they seem to be more concerned with an agreement with the Conservative Party than with the Conservative Party.

Perhaps one day the Prime Minister might get a clear answer as to where the Liberals stand. (Cheers and laughter.) Just who is kidding on March 23.

Mr Callaghan—All this may be true, but I do not propose to discuss inter-party relations in this House.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stock-on-Trent, South, Lab)—The indignation and anxiety expressed by the Conservative Party about the arrangements made by the Prime Minister with the Liberals, indicates that it is reasonable to assume that there is good reason for continuing it, at any rate on a temporary basis.

Mr Callaghan—I do not intend to answer questions on inter-party relations of this nature at this box. (Conservative protests.)

Mr Peter Blaikie (Blackpool, South, C)—The Prime Minister's answers were not good enough. Will he please answer Mr Aitken's question?

There were Conservative cries of "Answer" as Mr Callaghan declined to respond.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab)—Many of us are not surprised if the Patronage Secretary becomes somewhat confused, because, for example, in Liverpool the Liberals seem to be much more concerned with an alliance with the Conservative Party against the Labour Party (Labourists).

Did the Prime Minister know when he received this document from the Liberal leader that it was a photocopy of a memorandum written by a pressure group known as the "Outer Circle". (Renewed laughter.) Just who is kidding on March 23.

Mr Garry—Yes, I cannot. A statement has already been made about what would happen in regard to the method of election.

In putting my mind to this matter in some depth in recent weeks I have found it is a complicated matter, whether one wants to stick to the existing system which has stood for 150 years or move in another direction in making a change.

We ought to give deep consideration to it and not take a leap in the dark as has sometimes been done in electoral matters.

Mr Whitelaw—There is no suggestion of taking a leap in the dark. Can he at least give an undertaking that any proposal will be put to the House of Commons?

Mr Callaghan—Would he reconsider that? (Laughter.) Or would he at least have it as an alternative under the community service order projects?

Mr Rees—No. The voluntary donation of blood is a principle upon which the national transfusion service has been based. It is a principle we would not wish to change.

I notice that the latest day Portia has got the Merchant of Venice in reverse. The original was "flesh without blood". Miss Fookes wants "blood without flesh". (Laughter.)

Difficult issues in police pay claim

Effects of rejection of a rise in petrol tax

The Prime Minister was closely questioned about what would happen if the Budget resolution to increase petrol duty was defeated on Monday.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barber, Finchley, C), said: Has he taken time to consider what would be the consequences for those people who have either given up their cars or their petrol, since Tuesday if the Budget resolution were not passed on Monday evening? It is an important constitutional question. (Conservative cheers.)

I hope Mr Callaghan will make clear what consequences would follow from that decision.

Mr James Callaghan—I will certainly consider that matter. We put a resolution before the House and expect it to be carried. That could be serious consequences if it was not (conservative shouts of "What are they?")

Mrs Thatcher—The Prime Minister, on his own admission, is heading for a minority Government. He must have taken time to consider this before the resolution came before the House. We are in Budget debate and he is First Lord of the Treasury.

If he knows the answer, why will he not tell us, or is it he does not know? (Loud Conservative cheers.)

Mr Callaghan—The position will be considered on Monday, as for any other vote. When the Government put a motion down, they expect it will be carried.

Mr Norman Tebbit (Walton Forest, Chingford, C)—The House should know before it votes on the Budget resolution on petrol what the effect of refusing to pass the resolution would be (Liberal interruptions). I wish if the Liberals having nothing to say, they would keep their mouths shut. (Conservative cheers.)

For two days now, people have been paying more on petrol and it may well be on Monday night that the legislation will not be passed.

Mr Callaghan—Will the answer be, Will he give it? (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Callaghan—As soon as the Chancellor has finished his Budget statement and the Budget resolutions are put every year, this change takes place. It is always subject to ratification by the House at the end of the debate. This is the normal process that will be followed on this occasion.

International action needed to improve safety at sea

House of Lords

Lord Orton, Lord in Waiting, mortgaging the second reading of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Bill, said his object was to enable the United Kingdom to ratify the 1974 international convention for the safety of life at sea.

As Britain played a leading role in events leading up to the convention they should do all in their power to bring the convention into force as soon as possible by ratifying it through the passage of this Bill. To date four countries had ratified and Britain must not delay much longer.

Safety of life at sea was in its nature an international problem. The Government attached great importance to the work of the inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the United Nations specialists agency in this country. A sub-standard ship was a hazard to itself and to others wherever it was sailing. It was imperative that steps to improve shipping safety should, as far as possible, make an international contribution through the cooperation of the world's shipping nations.

Recent events such as the spate of tanker incidents off the coast of the United States had contributed to the trend towards a more stringent regulation of shipping to the United States and a number of bills before Congress which might lead to the United States adopting safety standards at variance with international regulations.

If conventions of this sort were

not brought into force the trend towards internationalism in these matters would grow. This would greatly complicate the problems of the shipping industry of a major maritime country like Britain which set great store by international agreements and would be much handicapped by having to comply with a variety of national regulations.

Ratification by the United Kingdom would not in itself bring the convention into force but would help and permit them to take the initiative with other countries regarding ratification.

Lord Lyell, for the Opposition, said he welcomed the measure but was behind the Bill. It was to be hoped that ratification by the United Kingdom would encourage other maritime nations to do likewise.

Nuclear power had a future in Britain, but there were many problems, and they hoped, tiny risks of radiation or pollution. He understood that a working party were looking at this problem and making considerable progress. It was clear that they were taking such an interest in this important aspect of safety.

The Earl of Inchcape (C), president of the General Council of British Shipping, said British shipowners welcomed the Bill.

The Bill was read a second time.

The British Transport Docks Bill and City of London (Various Powers) Bill completed their remaining stages.

Lord Shinwell—Is it not presumptuous for ministers to make pronouncements like this when they know they have not the force of law?

Our liberties nowadays are so few, we object to their being further restricted.

We can take it from me, and I speak for many other peers, that

Trilateral Square, will be strongly resisted, even to the extent of the withdrawal of his friends when it comes to the next general election. (Further laughter.)

Lord Wells-Pestell—I do not quite

know where to begin. (Laughter.) It is the responsibility of Mr Ennals, and that of the Department of Health and Social Security, to concern itself with the health of the people.

Non-smokers (cheers) are now non-smokers (cheers) and adequate provision should be made for them. Research shows, too, that smokers themselves feel there should be restriction on smoking in public places.

Lord Balfour of Bexhill (L)—Lord Callaghan's greatest example of the benefits of pipe smoking to the health of the nation.

Lord Wells-Pestell—There are peculiarities in every sphere. (Laughter.)

Lord Platt (Ind)—When someone

lights a pipe just as I am going to have lunch next to him, it is my liberty which is being interfered with, not the smoker's.

Lord Campbell of Crox (C)—Members of the Government should refrain from smoking pipes when they appear on television.

Lord Shinwell—Was this pronouncement considered by the Minister? Did that come to a decision, something to be included in the speech he made in this House?

Lord Wells-Pestell—This has not the force of law. There is no intention, certainly not at this stage, to introduce legislation.

The minister wishes to deal with this by persuasion and education. (Laughter.)

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Lord Platt (Ind)—When someone

Document and debate on direct elections

The White Paper on direct elections to the European Parliament will be published tomorrow (Friday).

Mr Martin Rees, the Home Secretary, told Mr Roger Stans (Bromley, Kent) asked earlier: On the Lib-Lab alliance, when Mr Callaghan sees his ministerial colleague later today he should discuss the proposal in the White Paper.

Mr Callaghan—I do not intend to answer questions on inter-party relations of this nature at this box.

Mr Peter Blaikie (Blackpool, South, C)—The Prime Minister's answers were not good enough. Will he please answer Mr Aitken's question?

There were Conservative cries of "Answer" as Mr Callaghan declined to respond.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab)—Many of us are not surprised if the Patronage Secretary becomes somewhat confused, because, for example, in Liverpool the Liberals seem to be much more concerned with an alliance with the Conservative Party against the Labour Party (Labourists).

Mr Michael Mates (Petersfield, C) unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate on the persistent refusal of the Prime Minister to

answer questions on the joint consultative committee with the Conservative Party.

Perhaps one day the Prime Minister might get a clear answer as to where the Liberals stand.

(Cheers and laughter.)

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Mr

HOME NEWS

Operations cancelled after porters strike at children's hospitals

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Two London hospitals for children were seriously affected yesterday by an industrial dispute involving porters and telephonists.

Operations at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Hackney have been cancelled today. The Great Ormond Street Hospital also faces disruption. Clerical workers last night volunteered to man the Queen Elizabeth Hospital switchboard and a limited service was being maintained at the Great Ormond Street switchboard.

The stoppage came after three members of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) at Great Ormond Street had been suspended on full pay after refusing to obey an order. The union called out its members in both hospitals demanding that the men should be reinstated.

The Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) was called in yesterday and it is understood that an attempt to find a solution will be made this morning.

Medical staff have been forced to do porters' duties, such as wheeling patients to operating theatres, changing bed linen and collecting specimens for laboratory tests.

Mr Stephen Parsons, assistant secretary at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, said: "If there is a real emergency we may have trouble. The porters walked out without making any emergency arrangements. We had very short notice that they were going."

Mr John Clark, branch secretary of the union, said last night that as chairman of the joint board of governors of the hospital, Mrs Callaghan, wife of

the Prime Minister, had been made aware of the suspension of the three men, but she had done nothing to help.

The dispute began when the men were told to get hospital records from the basement three inches deep in water. "It is normally a job done on overtime pay, but the hospital said it would no longer be like that," Mr Clark said.

Meanwhile, domestic staff involved in the Surrey hospitals' strike returned to work yesterday after agreeing to refer their dispute over duty rota for 30 of them to an independent mediator. The mediator was named last night as Professor George Bain, director of Warwick University's industrial relations research unit.

Two stoppages earlier in the day were settled after a few hours. The returning staff walked out of the Schiff Hospital, Cobham, because of the attitude of other domestic staff who belong to another union and who worked normally throughout the strike.

At the Manor Hospital, Epsom, centre of the dispute, some domestic stopped work pending a full explanation of the agreement. Most of those involved were Spanish, and translations of the agreement were drawn up.

Mr Michael Hargreave, chairman of the Surrey Area Health Authority, explained the deal yesterday to heads of department and nursing staff at three of the five hospitals involved. He appealed to workers to be patient and to give the agreement time to succeed.

Those involved in the dispute were members of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Members of the Confederation of Health Service Employees worked normally.

Man set up raids on his post office

From Our Correspondent
St Albans

James Gammage, a sub-postmaster at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, set up raids on his own post office, it was alleged at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday. In one of them, leaving £12,000, the police found the safe empty and Mr Gammage bound and gagged, it was stated.

In another raid, the prosecutor said, after stealing his own money, Mr Gammage locked himself in the lavatory, broke out and telephoned to the police. An accomplice was caught after one of the raids with the money in his possession. Mr Gammage had been acclaimed a hero for his action.

Mr Gammage, aged 29, of Heathbrow, Hemel Hempstead; Gordon Lawton, aged 33, of Murray Road, Northwood; and Vincent Klein, aged 30, of Wingfield Way, South Ruislip, Greater London, pleaded guilty to the theft of £9,000 in cash and £3,000 in postal orders. Mr Gammage also pleaded guilty to three charges of false accounting and the theft of £5,772 from the post office. Mr Lawton also admitted possessing an imitation firearm.

Mr Peter Hunt, for the defence of Mr Gammage, said the offences arose because he got into financial difficulties. Mr Gammage was jailed for three years, and Mr Klein and Mr Lawton were jailed for one year each.

Police chief wins damages from newspaper

Mr Ronald Gregory, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, received an apology and damages in the High Court yesterday over a newspaper article that suggested that the Home Secretary had been asked to reprimand him.

Mr Gregory had sued *The Observer*, Mr Donald Trelford, its editor, and Mr Michael Nally, a reporter. The damages agreed to pay were not disclosed, but were said to be a four-figure sum.

Mr Michael Eady, for Mr Gregory, told Mr Justice Melvyn Stevenson that the article, published on May 9 last year, was about National Front activities in Bradford. It referred to clashes between the police and anti-fascist groups as really held in April.

Treasure find award

Three workmen who unearthed 52 silver coins from the second and third centuries while laying a gas main at Kempston, near Bedford, have been awarded £534 each after a coroner's inquest had declared the coins treasure trove.

Accusations about colour prejudice in the theatre

Dame Peggy Ashcroft yesterday spoke in support of an allegation of colour prejudice in the theatre.

The accusation, against art foundations, theatre managers and backers, was made by four black entertainers. Their group, Radical Alliance of Poets and Players, received a minority rights group award at the National Theatre in London.

Dame Peggy, who presented the £250 prize said: "The claim does not surprise, but it distresses me. I am sure there is truth in what they say, but I think they have also a built-in

More Asian staff for child care proposed

By Diana Geddes

Greater involvement of the coloured community and recruitment of more blacks and Asians at children's homes are among recommendations made in a report of the Community Relations Commission on ways to cope with the needs of black and Asian children in care.

The report, published today, shows that although ethnic minorities form only 3.2 per cent of the population, black and Asian children account for about a third of those taken into care for reasons other than conflict with the law.

The report says there is a strong relationship between social deprivation and breakdown of families. Children receive into care disproportionately from those areas with poverty, overcrowding and bad housing, and there is evidence that ethnic minority families are more likely than whites to live in such areas.

Three quarters of West Indian women go out to work compared with less than half the indigenous female population, which often means children are left alone. The absence of relatives in Britain, who might look after the children, adds to the difficulty.

A high proportion of West Indian families have no resident father.

Guidelines should be issued to local authorities on how to cope with the special needs of children in care. The report says, in addition to recruiting more black staff, it recommends special training for staff at dental homes to develop an understanding of those needs.

A Home from Home? Some Policy Considerations on Black Children in Residential Care (Community Relations Commission, 15-16 Bedford Street, London, WC2).



Jubilee overture: The Junior Band of the Royal Marines marching in Guildhall Yard yesterday to open the City of London's silver jubilee celebrations. The band comprises 40 boys aged between 17 and 19 who have completed training at the Royal Marines School of Music at Deal, Kent.

Ulster homosexuality reform aim

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

The Government will come under pressure later this month to introduce sweeping social reforms to bring Northern Ireland's laws on homosexuality into line with those in the rest of the United Kingdom.

I understand that two confidential reports on possible changes will be presented to Mr Mason, the Secretary of State, in the next few weeks. Both have been prepared in the past six months by an influential government-sponsored body, the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, and will outline the form the new laws might take.

The commission's reports were initially requested by the Governorate last July, after it became clear that Ulster was going to be ruled directly from Westminster for some time. It is now believed that its recom-

mendations will be acted on, in spite of objections from religious groups.

Although much is made by Ulster "loyalists" of their links with Britain, it is not widely recognized outside Northern Ireland that homosexual acts between consenting adults in the province still carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Similar penalties in Britain were abolished 10 years ago.

The operation of the law has become increasingly controversial in recent years, and last month 22 charges against homosexuals were dropped. A case of regional discrimination against the British Government is being pursued at the European Commission on Human Rights.

The commission's report is likely to recommend to Mr Mason that the 1967 Act that legalized homosexuality in the rest of Britain should be made to apply in Ulster.

Eurovision Song Contest to be held next month

By Kenneth Gosling

The Eurovision Song Contest is to go ahead five weeks later than planned as a result of an agreement calling off the dispute over regrading BBC television outside broadcast cameramen.

It will take place at Wembley on May 7. The BBC had been unable to guarantee transmission tomorrow, the advertised date, because of the dispute involving members of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs.

Angela Rippon, the news reader, will still compete in the 18-nation contest, which will be transmitted live to 50 million people throughout Europe.

The cameramen's dispute, which is over £3 a week, will go to a tribunal of an independent chairman and a representative from each of the two sides. The union has agreed to make no further "lightning" strike action.

Both sides will consider the advice given by the tribunal, the BBC said yesterday, and may amend it by mutual consent within a month. Otherwise they will agree to pay were not disclosed, but were said to be a four-figure sum.

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Mother loses action to get back son

A mother's attempt to win back her son, aged 12, from the family friend who had raised and eventually adopted him was blocked by Mr Justice Latey in the Family Division of the High Court yesterday.

The boy's Irish parents had consented to his adoption by the benefactor who, five years earlier, had brought him to England and became both father and tutor to him. Then the natural father, a drunken, aggressive man, died and his widow came to England to become the adopter's housekeeper, the judge said. Their relationship soured and she went to live in Switzerland.

She had now issued a writ summoning seeking care and control of the boy.

The mother's summons was dismissed.

Four years for old woman

Two unemployed men who took part in an attack on an elderly, partially sighted woman who lived alone were both sentenced by Judge Geraint Rees at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to four years' imprisonment.

John Anthony Tracey, aged 20, and Edmund Joseph Flanagan, aged 19, both of Frampton Street, Paddington, London, were found guilty of robbing Miss Rose Woods, aged 70, of money from her meters and a transistor radio at her flat in Hatton Street, Paddington, last April. Jacqueline Salmon, aged 19, of Hall Place, Paddington, was also found guilty of the robbery. She was remanded in custody for social inquiry reports.

Students vote to uphold ban on 'fascist' speakers

From Judith Judd, of The Times Higher Education Supplement, Blackpool

The National Union of Students voted yesterday to uphold its policy of stopping "fascists and racists" from speaking at colleges or occupiations.

Mr Charles Clarke, the president, said after the debate that keeping speakers out was not a priority in the union's fight against racism.

Its conference rejected by 182,330 votes to 154,033 advice from the executive to change a policy of denying a platform to "fascists", which has been held by the union since June, 1974.

The executive argued that the policy of "no platform" had made it harder to mobilize students against racism and fascism. It said the conference should adopt a policy of "no invitation", urging students not to invite fascist speakers but to refrain from disrupting meetings that might take place.

Falling birth rate 'may halt growth of universities'

The present policy stops short of violence but supports physical prevention of meetings addressed by such speakers by pickets or occupations.

Mr Charles Clarke, the president, said after the debate that keeping speakers out was not a priority in the union's fight against racism.

Its conference rejected two earlier amendments demanding a denial of a platform to fascists.

Mr Steven Moon, the only Conservative member of the executive, said the "no platform" policy helped to encourage race hatred.

It calls for a joint committee

The 'great white elephant' hunters

By Peter Godfrey

Billed as the first elected representatives likely to vote themselves out of office, "GLC Abolitionist" candidates will take their place alongside more familiar party ranks at the Greater London Council elections in May.

The campaign to abolish "London's great white elephant" which the abolitionists estimate will cost nearly £2,000 this year to keep alive, was launched yesterday by Mr Oliver Stutchbury, a former Labour alderman on the GLC.

He hopes to find candidates for all 92 constituencies by the registration deadline of April 13, although only six nominations have been confirmed to date, including his own in Chelsea, "where I lived until last August, when I was driven out by the rates".

Mr Stutchbury was moved to disown his previous incarnation as vice-chairman of the GLC's policy

and resources committee from 1974 until his resignation from the council. "I had stomach trouble and could no longer stomach the prospect of advocating it."

The abolitionists' thesis is that the GLC constitutes a redundant layer of government between Whitehall and town hall, duplicating work that would be more efficiently and cheaply performed by individual boroughs. "Britain's malaise is overgovernment, and the GLC is filled with politicians and bureaucrats performing no useful purpose or great expense," Mr Stutchbury said.

The campaign's manifesto claims that each new GLC council house puts £1,000 a year on the rate bill, that its unwieldy planning methods were embarrassingly exposed in the Greater London development plan, and that education in inner London lacks economies of scale.

The result, they say, is bureaucracy run riot, with

anomalies such as the council debating support of London football teams—financial support—and having to rely on a centralized maintenance department to men council building radiators in an outlying borough.

The abolitionists' election tactics, issued from Individual House Eastbourne, are suitably idiosyncratic: "There is no need to go through the ritual dances of the professional parties with canvassing, etc. The important thing is not to bother people: they are quite intelligent enough to make up their own minds."

The response of London ratepayers, who are being urged to reserve their traditional party vote for a general election, has apparently been favourable. But, win or lose on May 5, the GLC Abolitionists' bid for power will be short-lived. In the utopian eventuality of their winning control, they will disappear and take the GLC with them.

Corruption case man to be candidate

A former dustman who was dismissed last June after being fined on corruption charges at the Central Criminal Court has been chosen by Kensington Labour Party as its prospective candidate in the Greater London Council elections next month.

London's GLC election is to be held in May. To match the present population level the priorities should be an immediate end to street-municipalisation, encouragement of town and village communities to flourish again, emphasis on keeping industry in London, and approval for dockland development.

Their attack on homelessness includes the establishment of a London-wide letting agency, leasing from private landlords on a fixed short-term basis, and then letting those in greatest need, which compares with Labour's proposal for a municipal estate agency handling private as well as council housing needs.

Copying the Liberal experiment in Liverpool, they would also lease empty building land. They maintain that at least 10,000 council-owned acres of land is available for house building financed by local builders.

On transport the Liberals propose a low fare system. They would also allow free travel before 7.30 am to spread the peak load and would coordinate bus, Tube and rail services.

Falling birth rate 'may halt growth of universities'

Universities and polytechnics may risk being run down like colleges of education because of the declining birth rate, the Conference of University Administrators says.

In a report on predicting higher education numbers, presented at the body's annual conference in Swansea today, it says the 18-year-old age group will fall by almost a third between 1982 and 1995.

The nation's needs for more doctors, lawyers, architects, engineers and social workers, some of the most buoyant areas of demand in universities, may decline like that for teachers.

The report, by a group of 14 university administrators (from Mr M. G. Paulson-Ellis, secretary (academic administration), University of Strathclyde, George Street, Glasgow G1 1XW, 50p).

Frances Gibb reports on the effect of the falling birth rate on the universities in the 1980s: Heinz Lubisz discusses the influence of Aristotle on Marx; and John Dunn reviews Melvin Lasky's *Utopia and Revolution*, all in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today.

It calls for a joint committee

Monkeys at the seaside

What can be more innocent than splashing about at the seaside? We humans call it fun. But what is it when monkeys do it? Do they have a sense of fun, too? Or is such behaviour designed to fulfil a more serious purpose? For a fascinating discussion of these questions read Carol Berman in this week's *New Scientist*. On the undisturbed island colony of Cayo Santiago, Puerto Rico, she has been paying close attention to the way uninhibited rhesus monkeys play in the sea. Like ourselves they fool about, paddle, splash, jump, and dive from handy trees.

New Scientist this week also celebrates the centenary of the Royal Institute of Chemistry; features a bold attack on the Third World marketing methods of a well-known drug company; analyses perceptual bias in science; describes a crucial "bench-top" experiment in particle physics; and recounts some strange goings on in Wales...



newscientist
Every Thursday 30p.

OVERSEAS

Japan orders trawler fleet to leave Soviet coast urgently

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, March 31

Japan today ordered hundreds of its fishing ships to move out of traditional trawling grounds around the Soviet Union by midnight tonight. An emergency radio warning was broadcast when negotiations on a new interim fishing agreement between Tokyo and Moscow broke down in deadlock over long-standing territorial disputes.

A Government spokesman said that at least 123 of the 700 Japanese ships which normally operate off the Soviet Coast had been contacted. The current Soviet-Japanese interim agreement expired at midnight.

Japan does not have the jurisdiction over its coastal waters to warrant reciprocal measures against Russian ships, should Japanese trawlers be harassed. But the situation became tense today when Japanese patrol boats took the unusual step of following a Soviet merchant ship which sailed close to Japan's three mile territorial waters. The Russian ship was warned by loudspeaker but sailed past.

The issue which blew up as a major controversy between Tokyo and Moscow this week has already touched off a flood of anti-Soviet resentment here. Japan stands to lose 15 per cent of its total fish catch traditionally acquired from waters recently incorporated in Russia's new 200-mile zone.

The talks on a new interim fishing agreement broke down earlier this week after the Soviet Union insisted that the declaration must carry veiled

Congress goes on with hunt for assassins

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 31

The House of Representatives committee on assassinations is now trying to resume work, after the two-year reprieve it won from the House yesterday. It will have to find a new counsel to replace Mr Richard Sprague who resigned to save it from annulling. It will have to get funds from the House and it will have to try to persuade people that it is not engaged in sensationalism.

Soviet delegates apparently warned officials in Tokyo this week that Japanese fishing vessels operating within the new 20-mile zone would be impounded unless a new interim agreement was concluded by midnight today. After two weeks of uncompromising negotiations, described as "bitter and difficult", the Soviet delegation, led by Mr Ivan Nikonorov, boycotted talks two days ago and returned to Moscow today.

As the issue threatened to impair relations between the two countries, Mr Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, decided today to dispatch his chief Cabinet secretary, Mr Sosan Sonoda, to Moscow tomorrow for urgent talks with Soviet leaders.

Russian fishing vessels will continue to operate off Japan's coast but it is believed that if the stalemate continues, the Japanese Government will introduce reciprocal measures when the country extends its territorial waters to 12 miles and ratifies a proposed 200-mile fishing zone in Parliament during the next three months.

Ethiopians post a long list of wanted men

Addis Ababa, March 31.—A

list of men and women wanted for being opposed to the Ethiopian military leadership appeared here for the first time today bearing their photographs, names and occupations.

The list, which contains some 755 names, includes Mr Dagnachew Yrgu, a former Minister of Agriculture, who abandoned his post and disappeared two years ago. It also includes paratroopers, students, teachers, factory workers and airline, bank and insurance staff who were reported missing from their jobs.

The list was posted in main government offices throughout Addis Ababa today.

A notice accompanying it said that those listed were engaged in counter-revolutionary activities and were to be hunted down with the help of the population. They were to be turned over to the police, farmers' association or kebeles (sub-district) defence squads.

Those on the list who have enrolled in schools or changed jobs have been told to notify the Military Council immediately.

It is believed that many are roaming the countryside and their photographs are being distributed. Most are said to have been labour leaders who went underground fearing government repression in connection with planned but unannounced strikes last September which fizzled out.

The authorities have arrested and expelled two black Americans accused of spying for the Central Intelligence Agency, the English-language newspaper *The Ethiopian Herald* reported.

Mr Richard Hammond and Mr Carl Edwin Hamilton were

caught in the north western province of Begemdir on March 23 while engaged in espionage on behalf of the London-based rightist Ethiopian Democratic Right.

The二人 have widespread supporters in Begemdir, bordering on Sudan. There have been frequent clashes there between union and government forces in the past few months.

The newspaper alleged that the two men had admitted working for the CIA. They had airline tickets in readiness for leaving the country in a hurry as well as credit cards, all provided by the CIA.

An American Embassy spokesman in Addis Ababa denied that the two were employed by it and would not comment further.

A house-to-house search for firearms launched in Addis Ababa a week ago has unearthed at least 1,600 weapons including sub-machine guns, rifles and pistols, press reports said today.

The weapons, together with an unspecified amount of ammunition, were turned over to the military authorities within the past two days. The search still goes on but with less intensity.

Eighty people, including an alleged leader of the underground Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party, Mr Tesfaye Debassai, have so far been killed while resisting the search.

A number of people are believed to have been arrested.

The Government said yesterday that it had set up two committees to investigate complaints concerning persons arrested unfairly and "properties unfairly taken away" by search teams.—Agence France-Presse.

Chinese city hit by tremor. Is still in ruins

Peking, March 31.—The city of Tangshan, the centre of last year's earthquake in northern China, is little more than an enormous pile of rubble, foreign travellers reported today.

They were the first foreigners to visit the disaster area since the earthquake last July which killed more than 700,000 people and left 800,000 injured.

The travellers said that the only new construction apparent was at the railway station. In places debris was three storeys high. Rows of white-washed shelters had been put up in the suburbs for workers.

The scene was "like the worst pictures of wartime bomb damage", one eyewitness said.

At first glance we could not distinguish buildings from debris but after a while we realised that were once tenement blocks or factories could be identified".—Reuters.

India plans mass campaign to wipe out illiteracy

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, March 31

India is to make a fresh attack on illiteracy. Dr Pratap Chandra Chunder, Minister of Education in the new Janata Government, has told his officials.

A team of experts, he said, had been asked to work out the details of a "people's literacy drive" which he promised would be among the Government's priorities.

Dr Chunder, a professional educationalist, said he felt that the emphasis put on higher education in India was responsible for only one-tenth of the population being literate.

While attention to higher education was "a good thing, we cannot neglect the great masses of our people who have not got the benefit of education," he said.

Dr Chunder called for a Mahatma Gandhi-like movement

which would involve the country's two million primary school teachers and also secondary school pupils in a mass literacy drive.

He promised teachers salary inducements but also appealed to every educated Indian "to take upon himself the duty of imparting fundamental education to his backward brothers and sisters".

One of the difficulties revealed by Unesco's world literacy programme some years back was that school teachers in developing countries tend to be neither professionally nor personally equipped to teach adult illiterates.

Dr Chunder said he was personally studying how China had tackled illiteracy for some of that country's problems were analogous to India's, but he would welcome "suggestions and guidance" from anyone interested.

Shanghai appeal to Mr Carter

From Richard Hughes
Hongkong, March 31

In what is accepted here as the first approach by a dissident Chinese dissident to a Western leader a self-described Chenghai intellectual has sent by way of Hongkong, a signed letter to President Carter to protest against "violation of human rights" in China.

The Hongkong "Far Eastern Economic Review" carries in full a copy of the letter which was apparently sent from Shanghai on March 14, a week after Mr Carter's White House meeting with Mr Vladimir Bukovsky, the Soviet dissident, was approvingly reported in the Chinese press.

The writer of the letter describes China as an "eased society" and implores the President "not to forget the suffering of the 800 million people on the Chinese mainland."

and to support us with the same commitment you gave the Soviet human rights leader".

The writer identifies more than 20 prisons and detention centres in Shanghai and complains bitterly about the sending of young intellectuals to the countryside to work.

"Why must we go to prison?", he asks. "Why must we undergo labour reform? Why must we lead such miserable existences, not even on a par with those of dogs or pigs? . . . We cannot use what we have learnt. Our whole lives will be spent in farms in faraway border regions which in effect are labour reform camps. . . . The people on the mainland have lost all their human rights, shivering in fear, night and day."

It goes on: "The Chinese mainland today is a hell on earth. The thousands and

thousands of people who in their bid to survive either attempt to cross the border, escape from small farming villages, or try to secure freedom and the enjoyment of human rights, are all locked up by the communists in prisons or labour reform camps, with the result that their lot becomes even more painful".

"Mr Carter, we realize that in order to gain our human rights, it is necessary to exercise more struggle and effort. And we must also have more spiritual and moral support—Most of all from the American people who have a 200-year history of supporting human rights".

Copies of the letter have been distributed to Western and Asian diplomatic and intelligence representatives here. They agree that it is probably genuine.



Amy Carter, aged nine, the President's daughter, kicking a ball at the state elementary school she has attended since her family moved to Washington.

Vandals and addicts take over charred wastelands created by the flames

New York City ravaged by fire as urban disease of arson consolidates its hold

From Peter Strafford
New York, March 31

A losing battle is being fought in the Bronx, Brooklyn and other New York boroughs against one of the most recent urban diseases—arson. Over the past few years, long rows of buildings have been reduced to empty shells, or levelled altogether, in certain areas.

Any visitor to the south Bronx will see the empty bulkheads of buildings, with their windows still charred. Alongside them are entire stretches of waste ground filled with rubbish and an occasional abandoned car.

At one time, the phenomenon was limited to the southernmost part of the borough, across the Harlem river from Manhattan. But it has now spread farther and farther north, creating more waste areas with their populations of squatters, youth gangs and drug addicts.

When I visited a fire station in East 143rd Street recently, the firemen, almost all of them white, told me that none of

them would want to live in the neighbourhood. Some of them had grown up there, but they now lived some distance away, in areas that were less run down.

It was usually easy, they said, to tell which fires had been started deliberately because of such signs as petrol marks. They never saw the arsonists.

What usually happens is that a fire is started in one flat, perhaps a vacant one, or otherwise occupied. Then there is another and another, and before long most of the residents decide to move out, the landlord stops taking any interest, and the whole building becomes prey to local vandals.

More than 100,000 families of the south Bronx are blacks and Puerto Ricans, and there are a lot of hard-working and honest people among them. Around East 143rd Street, for instance, there are several new housing developments. But all too often, they are helpless victims of the progressive decay of the area.

Revenge, Mr Barracato said, had accounted for about 60 per cent of the arson cases which his department had investigated in 1976. Sometimes, it was a gang which wanted to attack another gang's headquarters. Other times, it was a husband or wife who started a fire in their flat after a violent argument.

There had been a case of teenagers setting fire to a club after being refused admission, and another of a man who had done the same because his girl friend had gone to a dance with someone else.

But arson for economic motives was catching up, Mr Barracato said.

This sort of arsonist could be a landlord who felt that he was no longer making enough money because of rent controls, and wanted the insurance money. It could be an unemployed person who would be given money to fix his home if it was burnt. It could be a shopkeeper whose stock was obsolete or too large, or an addict who wanted to steal the plumbing and fixtures after a building had been destroyed.

It was very difficult to catch arsonists, Mr Barracato said, as they worked quietly in the middle of the night. In 1976, for instance, his department had investigated 6,779 arson cases and had made only 357 arrests.

Usually this kind of thing has been done in written form, as Mr John Hersey, the author, did a notably incisive piece on Mr Ford in office and journalists are still at it. Last week, when Mr William Rees-Mogg, the editor of *The Times*, met Mr Bert Lance, the powerful Director of the Office of Management and Budget, an American reporter sat in, taking notes for his report on Mr Lance's busy day.

Television to record President's workday

From Our Own Correspondence
Washington, March 31

President Carter is to allow television cameras into the White House during the week of April 4 to produce a one-hour programme entitled *A Day in the Life of the President*.

The proposal for the programme, from the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) was snapped up by the eager White House.

It seemed ideal for purposes of bringing the President closer to the people", Mr Barry Jagoda, the President's speechwriter for news and public affairs, said. "There isn't any other way we can open the White House to millions of people to let them see what the President does all day and what an incredibly busy schedule he keeps."

The White House has recently disclosed that Mr Carter is not practising what he preaches in admonishing his staff to get home in time to spend a while with their families. His average working week so far has been 71 hours.

Mr Carter, who promised during his election campaign to stay in touch with the ordinary people, is exerting himself to find as many ways as possible of doing so.

His radio "phone-in" was widely acclaimed, as was his rather syrupy performance at the Clinton town meeting. It is not clear how natural and unartificial a day in his life can be made to seem. The last time something similar was tried was at the Ford's banquet for the Queen last summer and it was a television disaster.

The Nixon's also has the cameras in once to show the family Christmas, and it turned out to be a memorable for a stiff, unconvincing performance from the President as he sat down on the floor as if he were doing it for the first time.

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Le Monde looks at the UNITED KINGDOM

Fifty million Frenchmen can be wrong

Yes, hopelessly wrong about Britain. And can you blame them? Just consider the clichés they have lived with. Milord Jeeves. Eton's playing fields. Le five o'clock. Sir in high society. If they are not any of these old standbys, then they are others, but chestnuts all the same. Industrial action. Tea breaks. Work to rule. We know there's a lot more to Britain than this. But do the French? This is the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee when all Europe's eyes are on Britain. A unique opportunity for British businessmen to set the record straight. With its long industrial and commercial experience, the United Kingdom has a valuable role to play in the construction of Europe.

Politics and society

- The monarchy and its image in contemporary society. The Queen's role at home and abroad. What the younger generation thinks of the institution.
- Regional autonomy. The view from Westminster, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast. Problems likely to crop up in the future.
- The British way of life. Fossil, or fingerpost to the future? Britain's unique "socialism within a monarchy". Is the system lagging behind highly developed societies, or is it pioneering a new approach to post-industrialism?
- The Commonwealth is still very much alive. Ties are more political, cultural and sentimental, rather than economic. Attitudes of the old and new Commonwealth countries to the Crown.
- Dr Chunder said he was personally studying how China had tackled illiteracy for some of that country's problems were analogous to India's, but he would welcome "suggestions and guidance" from anyone interested.
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SPORT

Football

Door to Argentina opens for Scots but Welsh still hold the key

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent
If Wales and the Republic of Ireland were delighted with their World Cup victories over Czechoslovakia and France respectively, on Wednesday night, Scotland, who were not playing, sat back in reflected satisfaction. The Welsh, who did not win, certainly improved their own chances of qualifying for next year's final competition in Argentina, but also made it easier for the Scots to qualify instead of them.

Although Czechoslovakia beat Scotland 2-0 in Prague on October 21, the Scots now have the necessary incentive to reverse that result at Hampden Park on September 21. They would then need to do no more than draw in Wales next October to clinch the top position. Of course, the hypothetical permutations could be turned in favour of any of the three countries who are divided only by goal difference, and each having two games to play. Nonetheless, it is clear that Wales will hold the key because they go to Czechoslovakia in November for the last match in the series.

In their previous two games, against West Germany in a friendly and Scotland in the World Cup, Wales seemed to have lost some of the good form shown by the managers, Michael Smith and the loss of Toshack from their attack was obvious. Czechoslovakia, the European champions, had been beaten only once in 25 international matches and though they were not their physical or mental defender, Toshack, they remained a splendidly well-organized team.

Wales, too, organized themselves intelligently and Mr Smith was quick to admit that he had made a mistake in not including Derby County's winger, James Gould, in his original party. James scored twice and began the move that led to Dace's scoring in his first appearance for Wales. Much also depended on the inspiration of Flynn, the tiny Burnley midfield player, and hearing how much these two contributed to the surprise victory of the Czechs can immediately reflect on England's decision to forgo the use of a midfield organizer in their tepid 5-0 win over Luxembourg, the third member of the group, at home in the last game, so the Irish need to beat Bulgaria twice.

England's next World Cup match will be in Luxembourg next October. In the meantime, they will play the same international championship three times, in South America and a friendly match with Switzerland. There is still time for improvement and



James (left), almost forgotten by Wales; and Giles, the type of player England overlooked.

without much team understanding. The Irish are guided both on and off the field by the experienced Giles, who stands tall himself just above the defence, if on point duty. Without the benefit of a week's group training, they still formed themselves into a neat unit and here too was a lesson for England. Without leadership and direction from an imaginative midfield player, the preparation is too easily forgotten in the heat of the game. Unhappily, England's choice is severely limited.

The Irish have a better chance of reaching the finals ahead of the hitherto rapidly improving French, who had been beaten 0-0 in Paris last November. France are still looking to overcome Bulgaria, the third member of the group, at home in the last game, so the Irish need to beat Bulgaria twice.

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reappraisals, struggled manfully

It was entirely predictable that Wales and the Republic of Ireland would be bettered, indeed than England, who, in spite of injuries and Don Revie's march-to-match

reappraisals, struggled manfully

for Fulham will return for Fulham City tomorrow—just over a month after fracturing his shoulder in a car crash. Best joins Fulham's fight to pull clear of the relegation zone at the expense of Birmingham.

He proved his fitness this week by playing in a five-a-side match in Copenhagen and the manager, Bobby Campbell, had no hesitation in choosing Best, despite the fact that Fulham have won past two matches. Also back is Lucy, who missed last week with a suspension. Howe drops out. Radford, of West Ham United, is set to return against Everton

and McLean has not fully recovered from an ankle injury.

Shanks takes over from Clement with Abbott continuing as Midfield coach, supporting Whittle, who is recovering from that trouble.

Leach wears No 7 shirt. Leach

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Law Report March 31 1977

House of Lords

AA denied costs in small claims

Hobbs v Marlowe
Before Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Chancellor, Viscount Dilhorne, Lord Diplock, Lord Simon of Glaisdale and Lord Simon of Glaisdale.

A motorist whose car was damaged in an accident and was reimbursed by his insurers for the full amount of the expense which he had sustained, less only £10 excess and the uninsured costs of hiring a substitute car, was held to be nevertheless entitled to sue the other motorist for the full amount of his expense. But the county court judge was right in holding that the solicitor's costs on a claim which was a misuse of the process of the court.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the defendant, Mr. Roger Marlowe, and a cross-appeal by the plaintiff, Mr. Percy John Hobbs, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Cairns, Lord Justice Salmon and Lord Justice Goffe) (Lanc.) (*The Times*, October 27, 1976) who dismissed an appeal and cross-appeal by the parties from Judge Sheldon at Aldershot and Farnham County Court.

Mr. Leslie Price, Q.C., and Mr. Termod O'Brien for Mr. Marlowe; Mr. Roger Etheridge, Q.C., and Mr. Robert Wilson for Mr. Hobbs.

The *London Chronicle* said that he agreed with Lord Diplock and desired only to add a few words on the cross-appeal.

The evident object of the rule (Order 47, rule 3(4) of the County Courts Rules), introduced in 1973, had been to discourage legal representation in cases where the amount of the claim did not justify the cost. Its effect was to prevent a litigant being deterred from asserting what he regarded as a just claim or defence by the fear of being mulcted in relatively high legal costs if he lost. It would be a victory for common sense if one of the principal provisions designed for the protection of the litigant in person could be avoided by a colourable inflation of the plaintiff's claim.

His Lordship agreed with Lord Justice Cairns as he then was, in his dissenting judgment in *Bourne v Stenbridge* (1965) *WLR* 189, 198: "I am bound to say that it seems to me that in the circumstances of this case the principles of reason and justice clearly demand that the plaintiff who has put out a piece of fruitless litigation of this kind should not be entitled to his costs as of right. It is suggested that the facts that the plaintiff was insured and that there was a 'knock-for-knock' agreement, and that the plaintiff paid the first £10 and that there were no claim bonds and so on, are all irrelevant. No doubt they are, so far as the issue of liability was concerned. I do not, however, believe that the court is obliged to exercise its discretion over costs in this way. Not only do I think that these matters are relevant; I think that they are of real and sometimes vital importance."

Those words were equally applicable whether the result of removing the blunders and having regard to the actual amount at issue was, in *Bourne v Stenbridge*, to lower the plaintiff's claim to which the plaintiff was entitled or, as in the instant case, to deprive him altogether of his solicitors' costs.

Viscount Dilhorne delivered an opinion agreeing with Lord Diplock.

LORD DIPLOCK said that it had never been seriously disputed that Mr. Marlowe had been fully entitled to his costs. But costs had been comprehensively insured with an excess of £10. Mr. Hobbs with the United Standard Insurance Co. Ltd and Mr. Marlowe with the Guardian Royal Exchange Insurance Co. Ltd (GRE). The cost of repairing Mr. Hobbs' car had not been in dispute. It was £237.59 of which £227.59 had been paid by United Standard. Mr. Hobbs had incurred expenses in hiring another car while he was being repaired amounting, to £6.53. So he was £78.53 out of pocket.

United Standard and GRE were parties to a knock-for-knock agreement, the effect of which was that in circumstances such as the present each insurer bore its own loss. If Mr. Marlowe were compelled by legal process to pay Mr. Hobbs £227.59 as damages for negligence and GRE indemnified Mr. Marlowe in sum total they were bound to do so. GRE would be entitled to be reimbursed that sum by United Standard. United Standard in their turn, as they had already paid the £227.59, would be entitled to recover from the plaintiff the sum of any financial or other benefit to Mr. Hobbs.

His reasons for depriving the plaintiff of his costs were: "To commence proceedings or to pursue or of obtaining costs or of increasing the costs that a defendant may have to bear in an action in this context to misconduct sufficient to justify the court in depriving the plaintiff of some or all of the costs to which he might otherwise have been entitled. A fortiori, in my view, would be so if, as is often the present case, the plaintiff is not likely to gain and is not intended to benefit from the institution of the proceedings or the 'inflation' of the claim in question."

The Court of Appeal had emphasized that the AA solicitor had not been guilty of any impropriety in bringing the proceedings. His Lordship would endorse that and would describe the increase of the claim from £78.53 to £301.12 by the less emotive term "a misuse" of the process of the court, but one which fully justified the judge deciding the plaintiff's costs as he did.

As to the cross-appeal, the judge had found that it had never been disputed that the plaintiff's claim was raised from £78.53 to £301.12 on the initiative of the solicitors solely for the purpose of increasing their claim for costs. It was never contemplated nor intended that the increase would be of any financial or other benefit to Mr. Hobbs.

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The AA said that it was a hardship that a motorist like Mr. Hobbs who, through no fault of his own, suffered uninsured damage to his car, should have to meet his solicitor's reasonable charges for recovering that sum by settlement or litigation out of his own pocket.

AA solicitors instead of an AA subscription instead of their fees, being paid by the wrong-doer, is not unusual. That was the introduction of the small claims scheme into county court procedure, was shared by every member of the public who sought justice in that court. In those cases, it had been the general practice until 1973 for the other party's insurers to pay the AA solicitors' claim in full, leaving the party and party costs which might have been recovered had the matter been litigated.

In 1973, however, the small claims scheme was started in the county courts as a consequence of amendment of the rules of costs. As a result, no solicitors' charges were allowed as between party and party where the sum claimed did not exceed £75, now £100.

The majority of insurers continued to settle cases on the basis of allowing the AA's solicitors the costs which would have been recoverable in litigation before the new rule. GRE were an exception. To bring them into line with the others, the AA solicitors adopted the practice of claiming, or threatening to claim, the full amount of the damage including the sum already paid to the plaintiff by his own insurers.

The sole purpose of those tactics was to enable the AA to recover a sum for their solicitors' charges greater than that which would have been recoverable in litigation if the claim in the litigation had been limited to the amount which their member had at stake.

The present case was brought to test the AA solicitors' right to adopt those tactics. The amount claimed in the summons was £313.62 (damages of £301.12 and small amounts for court fees etc.). The action was brought, as it had to be, in Mr. Hobbs' name, with his nominal consent. It was defended by GRE in the name of

Appointments Vacant also on pages 13 and 26

Staff Information Executive

Thames Television seeks applications for the post of Staff Information Executive from people with experience in, and sympathy for, conducting two-way communication between staff and management. Based at Euston Studios, the position carries responsibility for organising and developing the internal information services, which cover all company issues and matters of interest to staff. Applicants must be able to speak and write clear, informal English and be inventive communicators. Salary to be negotiated. All fringe benefits in line with top class company. Phone or write to Joanna Walker on 01-387 8494, 306-3316 Euston Road, London NW1 3BB.

THAMES

GENERAL VACANCIES

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON REQUIRES URGENTLY, FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST 12 MONTHS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO ESTABLISHMENT OFFICER

To undertake a range of duties concerned with the administration of a staff of over 500, with the primary initial task of dealing with the revision of pension arrangements. Candidates should have a good standard of education, preferably to graduate level, and previous relevant executive experience. Essential qualities are numeracy, initiative, fluency with the written word, and meticulous attention to detail. Salary not less than £4,250. Applications in writing, giving full details of age, qualifications and experience, together with names of two referees, should be submitted by 18th April to Establishment Officer, Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of:

INSECT ECOLOGIST TICK ECOLOGIST

Applicants for these posts must have a PhD in Entomology or Acarology with post doctoral research experience. Successful applicants will receive grants of £1,000 per year for travel or subsistence and field work, and £1,000 per year for subsistence in the transmission of East Coast Fever and Heartwater. Applications for these posts are invited from research workers currently engaged on other aspects of vector research or from persons recently concerned with aspects of vector research. Following scales:
Senior Professional Officer: £3,262-3,622-3,900-4,200-4,498-4,796-5,094-5,392-5,692-5,992-6,290-6,592-6,892-7,192-7,492-7,792-8,092-8,392-8,692-8,992-9,292-9,592-9,892-10,192-10,492-10,792-11,092-11,392-11,692-11,992-12,292-12,592-12,892-13,192-13,492-13,792-14,092-14,392-14,692-14,992-15,292-15,592-15,892-16,192-16,492-16,792-17,092-17,392-17,692-17,992-18,292-18,592-18,892-19,192-19,492-19,792-19,992-20,292-20,592-20,892-21,192-21,492-21,792-21,992-22,292-22,592-22,892-23,192-23,492-23,792-23,992-24,292-24,592-24,892-25,192-25,492-25,792-25,992-26,292-26,592-26,892-27,192-27,492-27,792-27,992-28,292-28,592-28,892-29,192-29,492-29,792-29,992-30,292-30,592-30,892-31,192-31,492-31,792-31,992-32,292-32,592-32,892-33,192-33,492-33,792-33,992-34,292-34,592-34,892-35,192-35,492-35,792-35,992-36,292-36,592-36,892-37,192-37,492-37,792-37,992-38,292-38,592-38,892-39,192-39,492-39,792-39,992-40,292-40,592-40,892-41,192-41,492-41,792-41,992-42,292-42,592-42,892-43,192-43,492-43,792-43,992-44,292-44,592-44,892-45,192-45,492-45,792-45,992-46,292-46,592-46,892-47,192-47,492-47,792-47,992-48,292-48,592-48,892-49,192-49,492-49,792-49,992-50,292-50,592-50,892-51,192-51,492-51,792-51,992-52,292-52,592-52,892-53,192-53,492-53,792-53,992-54,292-54,592-54,892-55,192-55,492-55,792-55,992-56,292-56,592-56,892-57,192-57,492-57,792-57,992-58,292-58,592-58,892-59,192-59,492-59,792-59,992-60,292-60,592-60,892-61,192-61,492-61,792-61,992-62,292-62,592-62,892-63,192-63,492-63,792-63,992-64,292-64,592-64,892-65,192-65,492-65,792-65,992-66,292-66,592-66,892-67,192-67,492-67,792-67,992-68,292-68,592-68,892-69,192-69,492-69,792-69,992-70,292-70,592-70,892-71,192-71,492-71,792-71,992-72,292-72,592-72,892-73,192-73,492-73,792-73,992-74,292-74,592-74,892-75,192-75,492-75,792-75,992-76,292-76,592-76,892-77,192-77,492-77,792-77,992-78,292-78,592-78,892-79,192-79,492-79,792-79,992-80,292-80,592-80,892-81,192-81,492-81,792-81,992-82,292-82,592-82,892-83,192-83,492-83,792-83,992-84,292-84,592-84,892-85,192-85,492-85,792-85,992-86,292-86,592-86,892-87,192-87,492-87,792-87,992-88,292-88,592-88,892-89,192-89,492-89,792-89,992-90,292-90,592-90,892-91,192-91,492-91,792-91,992-92,292-92,592-92,892-93,192-93,492-93,792-93,992-94,292-94,592-94,892-95,192-95,492-95,792-95,992-96,292-96,592-96,892-97,192-97,492-97,792-97,992-98,292-98,592-98,892-99,192-99,492-99,792-99,992-100,292-100,592-100,892-101,192-101,492-101,792-101,992-102,292-102,592-102,892-103,192-103,492-103,792-103,992-104,292-104,592-104,892-105,192-105,492-105,792-105,992-106,292-106,592-106,892-107,192-107,492-107,792-107,992-108,292-108,592-108,892-109,192-109,492-109,792-109,992-110,292-110,592-110,892-111,192-111,492-111,792-111,992-112,292-112,592-112,892-113,192-113,492-113,792-113,992-114,292-114,592-114,892-115,192-115,492-115,792-115,992-116,292-116,592-116,892-117,192-117,492-117,792-117,992-118,292-118,592-118,892-119,192-119,492-119,792-119,992-120,292-120,592-120,892-121,192-121,492-121,792-121,992-122,292-122,592-122,892-123,192-123,492-123,792-123,992-124,292-124,592-124,892-125,192-125,492-125,792-125,992-126,292-126,592-126,892-127,192-127,492-127,792-127,992-128,292-128,592-128,892-129,192-129,492-129,792-129,992-130,292-130,592-130,892-131,192-131,492-131,792-131,992-132,292-132,592-132,892-133,192-133,492-133,792-133,992-134,292-134,592-134,892-135,192-135,492-135,792-135,992-136,292-136,592-136,892-137,192-137,492-137,792-137,992-138,292-138,592-138,892-139,192-139,492-139,792-139,992-140,292-140,592-140,892-141,192-141,492-141,792-141,992-142,292-142,592-142,892-143,192-143,492-143,792-143,992-144,292-144,592-144,892-145,192-145,492-145,792-145,992-146,292-146,592-146,892-147,192-147,492-147,792-147,992-148,292-148,592-148,892-149,192-149,492-149,792-149,992-150,292-150,592-150,892-151,192-151,492-151,792-151,992-152,292-152,592-152,892-153,192-153,492-153,792-153,992-154,292-154,592-154,892-155,192-155,492-155,792-155,992-156,292-156,592-156,892-157,192-157,492-157,792-157,992-158,292-158,592-158,892-159,192-159,492-159,792-159,992-160,292-160,592-160,892-161,192-161,492-161,792-161,992-162,292-162,592-162,892-163,192-163,492-163,792-163,992-164,292-164,592-164,892-165,192-165,492-165,792-165,992-166,292-166,592-16

Residential property

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Siena Leone

Applications are invited for the post of PROFESSOR, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, LECTURER, or SENIOR LECTURER in the following subjects: EDUCATION; IN THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION; IN ENGLISH; IN POSTGRADUATE STUDY; PREDARSHY IN APPLIED STUDIES; IN THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION; and EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING IN A LANGUAGE, and in its TECHNOLOGY, particularly in the service of an international organization, including UN agencies, and in the field of linguistics, including English and French, and knowledge of the field of African literature would be an advantage. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, Department of Education, 10 St. James's Square, London SW1A 1AJ, Tel. 01-837 4065 (2 lines), 01-837 4066 (2 lines), 01-837 4067 (2 lines), 01-837 4068 (2 lines). Starting salary £1,600 p.a. (including £200 p.a. starting); Senior Lecturer £1,400 p.a. (including £150 p.a. starting); Associate Professor £1,200 p.a. (including £150 p.a. starting); Professor £1,000 p.a. (including £150 p.a. starting). Applications may be submitted at any time, but should reach the University by April 1st, 1977.

The University of Lancaster

Applications are invited for the post of

TEACHING FELLOW IN

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

EDUCATION

Applications are invited for the post of TEACHING FELLOW IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE with teaching experience at least three years' experience. They should also have experience in the preparation of teaching materials.

(1) The research and development of teaching materials, including multi-media materials for educational and specialist purposes, and

(2) the design and organisation of in-service teacher

development courses.

The appointment will be for 12 months from June 1st, 1977.

The appointment will be

made on the scale £2,300-£2,600.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, University House, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YL, Tel. 0524 80191. Tottenham Wharf, London EC1R 0ET. Further particulars may be obtained from other address.

The University of Siena Leone

Applications are invited for

the post of

TEACHING FELLOW IN

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

EDUCATION

Applications are invited for the post of Research Officer in the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. The appointment will be for 12 months from June 1st, 1977.

The holder will be required to undertake approved research in the Institute under the direction of the Committee, and to teach an amount of teaching and examining in the field of development economics.

The holder will be in the rank of Lecturer (£2,300-£2,600)

with membership of U.S.E.C. It is hoped to fill the post by September 1st, 1977.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Queen Elizabeth House, 80 Aldwych, London WC2B 4HU, Tel. 01-580 5214.

The appointment will be

made on the scale £2,300-£2,600.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, University House, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YL, Tel. 0524 80191. Tottenham Wharf, London EC1R 0ET. Further particulars may be obtained from other address.

The University of Oxford

COMMITTEE FOR

APPOINTMENT OF

RESEARCH OFFICER

DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMICS

Applications are invited for the post of Research Officer in the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. The appointment will be for 12 months from June 1st, 1977.

The holder will be required to

undertake approved research in the Institute under the direction

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The University of Oxford

CHANCELLOR COLLEGE

Applications are invited for

LECTURESHIP IN

PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Human Behaviour invites applications for a good number of posts in Psychology and some relevant subjects. A higher degree qualification is required. Opportunities will be required for research and publication. The post will be for 12 months from June 1st, 1977.

The British Government is

inviting applications for

lectureships in Psychology

for this post. There

is a University addition of

£1,000 per annum for

research and publication.

Further particulars may be

obtained from the Secretary,

University of Oxford, 19

University Parks, Oxford OX1 3EL.

The University of Manchester

TEMPORARY LECTURER

IN ARABIC LANGUAGE

AND LITERATURE

Applications are invited for the post of Temporary Lecturer with qualifications in the Arabic Language and more advanced Arabic literature. Duties consist of giving lectures, supervising students' work, marking assignments, writing reports, giving oral examinations and application forms. Salary £1,000 per annum for April 1st, 1977.

The University of

Manchester

NOTICE

All advertisements are subject

to the conditions of acceptance

of Times Newspapers Limited.

Copies of which are available

on request.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WELSH OFFICE
NOTICE
Crowners CNYWA, Gwendraeth and
Dolgarrog—Saint Asaph—Church
in Wales.

NOTICE is hereby given that a
ORDER under section 112
of the Education Act 1963
and under section 1 of the Education
(Wales) Order 1973 is now pub-

lished. This ORDER would vary
the provisions of the educational
endowments. Order 1973 to
the Saint Asaph Diocesan Board to
foundations of which it is trustee
and the various sections of the Education
(Wales) Order 1973 to the extent
with the provision of section 1 of the
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A chilling fear of collapse in Eastern Europe as Moscow's power dwindles

Eastern Europe seems to be heading into troubled times again after several years of relative peace and quiet. Opposition is emerging in new and more open forms and several governments show signs of being jumpy. How deep are the stresses, and how seriously should we take warnings that western support for human rights movements could provoke serious instability?

All the countries in the area are having to cope in varying degrees with disappointed hopes in both economic and political. After the crushing of the Czechoslovak reforms of 1968 and the Polish strikes of 1970, most governments followed the Soviet lead in giving greater priority to consumer goods, housing, real wages, and trade openings to the West. They hoped that people would gradually lose interest in political change and concentrate on the material betterment of their lives.

For a while things went fairly well. New five-year plans started in 1971. Money flowed into pockets, goods flowed (more slowly) into shops, and the high tide of détente seemed to promise political relaxation as well. Even the oil crisis brought short-term benefits to eastern Europe, for Soviet oil remained cheap, and consumer prices could be held stable while the West floundered into recession, thereby giving the propagandists a field day which others were not slow to exploit.

But the advantage was short-lived. From January 1975, the Russians began pushing up the price of oil and raw materials on a rolling five-year average of world prices, so that even if eastern Europe were to continue buying the same amount of oil its bill would rise by about 85 per cent by 1978. Czechoslovakia, which had paid roughly the double equivalent of £115m for 10m tonnes of Soviet oil in 1971, found herself paying roughly the equivalent of £415m for 15m tonnes in 1975, and of course still more in 1976.

East Germany and Hungary have also been hard hit. Although the Russians now pay more for their industrial imports from eastern Europe, it is not enough to compensate. There has been a lot of backstage argument about the price system, which could leave eastern Europe paying above the world level if commodity

prices drop. In addition, eastern Europe has had to invest heavily in Soviet raw material exploitation and will now not get quite the benefits it expected.

To make matters worse for eastern Europe, western markets shrank while the price of western imports rose sharply, and since many of these are capital goods committed to long-term projects and needed for the rationalization which alone can make up for higher material costs, they cannot be quickly cut off. The result has been a painful shift in the terms of trade to the disadvantage of eastern Europe, which is called upon simultaneously to supply more to the Soviet Union to pay for raw materials more to the west to pay for capital goods, and more to its own consumers to meet rising expectations—all with managerial and pricing systems deeply resistant to reform, and with the misfortune of some bad harvests.

One result was to run several Comecon countries deeply into debt with the West. Nobody has the true figures but total Comecon debts increased to the West by about a third accounted for by the Soviet Union, a third by Poland and a third by the rest. A great deal of effort must now be devoted to servicing and repaying these debts.

The basic problem touched by this issue is that two familiar props of the regimes are weakening—external threat and revolutionary necessity. The external threat was once embodied by West Germany or Nazi, and during the cold war by the USSR. The Russians would be very anxious to avoid it, particularly in Poland, where the Polish army might fight.

Hence there is room for careful testing of the limits of the possible. This might slide out of control if there were simultaneous instability in the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and some other key places, but this is seen by many as more of an attraction than a threat, and does nothing to mobilize national sentiment.

The imperatives of revolutionary transition also provided useful excuse for almost everything from show trials to economic shortages and censorship, but new generations are growing up less impressed and less frightened. They want now what the system used to promise for the golden future. Government must therefore win legitimacy by results, not by doctrines or promises.

On top of all this comes the new face of western European communism. Support for its specific doctrines is confined to relatively few intellectuals in Prague, East Berlin, Moscow

Richard Davy

and elsewhere, but the effect of the challenge goes deeper. When west European communists come to East Berlin, as they did last June, and say openly that the Soviet Union is no longer any sort of model for them, and when they then have their speeches published in full in the East German party paper, a taboo has been broken. The authority of Moscow can never look the same again in eastern Europe, where there are certainly people inside the ruling apparatus who pin quiet hopes on the Italian example and know they have no hope of legitimacy until they bring their systems closer to the traditions of central and western Europe.

Eastern Europe is thus entering a phase of new stresses between government and people and—especially in economic relations—between governments and the Soviet Union. The task of coping with them is made more difficult by the widening age gap between leaders and led, and by uncertainty about the future leadership of the Soviet Union. Everyone sees that the next generation will always come to the rescue of the systems in eastern Europe, but everyone also knows that another armed intervention would be extremely costly and that the Russians would be very anxious to avoid it, particularly in Poland, where the Polish army might fight.

Denis Hamilton with his wife Lady Hamilton and the editorial staff of the People's Daily in Peking.

One of the ready great men in London and Far East commerce, who was born in China, told me that he had prepared a book entitled "All I Know About China". He promised me a copy. It had 200 blank pages.

What, then, can one say of this enigmatic land after a second visit to Peking in five years? The language problems are too great to talk freely to anyone and unless one sees the top leadership, every Chinese sticks closely to the Party line, communicated by a remarkable network of communications systems within hours to every commune in the country. Five ambassadors will offer five views of whether the present leadership will last.

Will Huu Kuo-Jeng, elected Chairman of the Central Committee, be confirmed as Chairman Mao's successor? He is referred to variously as comrade or Chairman of the Central Committee, only sometimes as Chairman Huu. His photograph is now appearing on public buildings alongside Mao's. There has been a vacuum at the top since Chou En-lai became ill in 1974 and Chairman Mao died last autumn. Mao, strangely, had failed to fill many of the top places long before he died, one explanation being that he would have had to give in to the Gang of Four faction and postpone their nominees.

How does one view Chairman Huu? At 56, he is one of the younger members of the Central Committee. Obviously, his record shows him to be a loyal Party man—perhaps more of a pragmatist than Chairman Mao.

Mao's extremism for the past 15 years is said to have been privately criticized by his colleagues, who thought him somewhat soft on the Gang of Four (defined for me as a westerly by a Chinese official, as the "Chinese Mafia").

Because they know that Mao's

politics in his last decade have him open to criticism, the Government has recently published Mao's 10 prisms, which he made in a speech of September, 1956, as proof that he had laid down the right policy for modernization and industrializing. That if there had been lack of speed in development, it was the fault of those who had to execute the policies.

Tang Hsiao-ping is needed back to put some force into the economy, which flagged last year, but a decision is obviously being held back as he might be too dynamic to work with Chairman Huu Kuo-jeng.

One man who carries a heavy load today is Li Hsien-nen. He is in charge of the financial area of government. He is extremely fluent—his handling of words could make a piece of string sound interesting. Some well-known papers named him as Chou's successor after Teng's downfall, but this was premature.

The enormous popularity of Chou En-lai was shown by the queues which formed after the issue of four postage stamps in his memory. Displays of photographs of his life are drawing crowds everywhere. History will show him to have contributed as much as Mao to the organization of communist China. If Mao had died first, and Chou succeeded, modernization would have undoubtedly reached a higher stage than at present. The Chinese were a little frightened of Mao and where he was taking them (the Cultural Revolution was his). The decision to give Chou's widow a senior post was very popular with the masses.

One cannot but admire China's achievements so far, whatever the cost to individual rights as we know them.

Denis Hamilton

Everywhere is clean. Everyone looks fit and disciplined, so a long period of growth free from internal and external strife should produce fantastic results. But how can these 800 million people, mostly peasants, handle rapid modernization? No one seems to have any doubt that the Chinese solution has worked so far, and that the West, by contrast, has lost its nerve. However, one's liberalism must not be over-romantic, and the entire subjection of the individual to the state on a scale never attempted before would be an unhappy state of affairs if it were permanent.

British trade may have an opportunity when the new leadership revives the modernization programmes under the new five-year plan. The trouble with the really big construction contracts is our inability to give guaranteed fixed prices. The United States is unlikely to get major orders until there is a better understanding on Taiwan, but, realistically, China is not pressing this.

My interview with Li Hsien-nen was surprising in that he chose to be so outspoken about Russia's involvement in Africa. Clearly, it was China worried long term, and the Chinese are uncertain about the line to take when they are obviously involved in the conflict in South Africa. Indeed, the Vice-Foreign Minister, Tang, another meeting, said he would prefer commitments to be withdrawn from South Africa, much as they wished to keep it out of Russia's orbit, rather than accepting racial discrimination.

Li will be meeting Mrs Thatcher next week. She is really going to get the red carpet treatment because the Chinese identify her as being "hard" on Russia, whereas the Labour Party is seen to be "soft".

Denis Hamilton

Beating the extreme left at its own game

Bernard Levin

Never practise what you preach. This gloomy conclusion, to which I have been driven by circumstances which were none of my choosing, forms the substance of what I have to say today, and I think it unlikely that it will be the last time I turn to the subject. Though the fact is that it is certainly the first is itself part of the story.

As regular readers will know, I have long made it my practice to comment on the affairs of various trade unions, and to comment not only in general, by discussing principles and policies, but in detail, especially on the conduct of the election of officers. My theme—in the case for instance, of the AUEW—has always been the same: that the only reason for the success of Stalinism, Trotskyism and other varieties of communism, together with their front-men and fellow-travellers, has been the apathy and indifference of the majority of members who, like the majority of the country in general, reject all forms of totalitarianism, whether under the banner of the Communist Party of Great Britain or the Socialist Workers' Party (i-devout International Socialists), or for that matter the National Front.

In this connexion, I have not been content simply to urge union members to attend their branch meetings and to participate in union elections; I have published the names of moderate candidates and their extremist opponents.

Now I have been a member of the National Union of Journalists for well over 20 years; until the last few years, however, I had been a largely inactive member, rarely going to meetings, and voting only in postal elections for national officers. I finally decided to play a more active part after the scandal surrounding the NUJ's decision not to be registered under the Industrial Relations Act 1971. The principle of deregistration was not what roused me though, as a matter of fact I was in favour of the organisation remaining registered. But the scandal lay in the fact that although the union is a national postal ballot, voted for by a majority of members, the procedure until moderate members had gone home, the bogus points of order, the party line, the disciplined voting, the willingness to volunteer.

They were able to do this because of the pitiful thin attendance at the meetings—an evening at which 40 members turned up (out of 2,000!) was a good one. The classic techniques, about which I have written so often, were employed: the irrelevant and time-wasting motions, the protracting of the proceedings until moderate members had gone home, the bogus points of order, the party line, the disciplined voting, the willingness to volunteer.

As you will realize, not all of the actions described in that last sentence are to be condemned; many of the left

outraged by this flouting of the majority's clear instructions, it upheld the decision.

Soon after that I decided to start attending the monthly meetings of the section to which I belong—the London Freelance Branch. I was appalled by what I saw there: a tiny group of left-wing extremists, holding and propagating views that they clearly care nothing for personal affluence or prestige; they are parrotian; they are conspicuously loyal to their cause and to each other. And that cause triumphs, when it does, because those who reject it, who are the great majority, fail to match those qualities with their own.

So, with the one—one

other member whom I recog-

nized at a meeting, I decided to do something about it. We were grotesquely handicapped at the outset; we knew none of the regular members, and were, it seemed, debarred from inspecting the membership roll to seek familiar names we might recruit as allies. We were reduced to observing at meetings, those who voted regularly on the same side as ourselves, taking them aside and inviting them to join us in our endeavour. By this means we recruited a nucleus of some 10 members,

and held the first of a series of meetings to devise and carry through a strategy.

At this point, you may be wondering why I did not run the campaign in this column.

Because, difficult though it may be to believe, a branch of the National Union of Journalists had a rule in its standing orders which unambiguously forbade any unauthorized publication of anything about the branch's activities.

That rule has now been changed; and the changes, it must be said, have come about because our strategy was ultimately successful. At the January branch meeting, the largest branch had ever held, (200 members were there), which took place some 18 months after we launched our campaign, moderate members put forward or supported by our activist group (they range from passionate but impeccably democratic socialists to moderate Conservatives) swept the board for the branch committee, capturing every seat. In February, the branch

majority continued its advance, winning hands down the election for the branch's delegation to the union's conference later this month; and at the March meeting, held upstairs, the new standing orders, which may enable the branch to waste less time on irrelevancies, were adopted.

This has all been done by an immense amount of hard work on the part of our inner group. We have gone out into the highways and byways to recruit new allies; every time we have found one, we have got him or her to supply us with further names of members known to be against the extremists; every name has gone towards the compilation of the mailing-list, which has enabled us (I send out an irregular and unofficial "bulletin") to urge members to come to meetings, and telling them who the moderate candidates for elections are. (The left, of course, has done all this for years, and one of the few amusing aspects of the campaign has been the extraordinary show of indignation they have put on at the sight of a leaflet taken from their own book.)

It has not only been hard work; it has also, though so far

very successful, been in some ways dispiriting. For many of

the moderates seem quite unable to get the habit of coming to meetings regularly. There are only 10 such meetings a year, but for every crucial one I now only have to send out endorsements by post (one or even three postmen have been necessary for a single meeting); our inner group has also had to spend a vast amount of time telephoning supporters to urge them to be there and to stay to the end. And the faithlessness of some of the excuses is the most dispiriting thing of all.

And yet, after all, what the argument is about is democracy.

The NUJ, where democracy is concerned, is not entirely unimportant; certainly the left extremists (they have a national body within the union, called Journalists' Charter) know that, and have as their goal the control of the union and its use as an instrument for their own political ends. (That, incidentally, is one of our handicaps: having no party line to unite us and having among our chief aims the making of the union not only more responsive to the wishes of most of its members but less disposed to spend its time on extraneous issues.)

Well, let us see whether the change in the standing orders, which has enabled me to write

this column, will do democracy any good. The next meeting of the London Freelance Branch of the National Union of Journalists will take place next Monday, April 4, at St Bride's Institute, St Bride's Lane (near Liverpool Circus), and will start at 6 pm. (Under our new rules, it cannot last beyond 9.30.) Among other matters to be discussed are the branch delegation's mandate for the various resolutions at the annual conference, and a number of votes of no confidence in the newly-elected committee and the new standing orders. I urge all moderate members to be there, or good time to bring others, or urge them to come too; to stay to the end; and to support the committee and moderate policies.

It remains only for me to add one irony: though I have been, as members of any persuasion would agree, assiduous in my own attendance, inescapable work obligations make it impossible for me, for once, to attend on Monday. If any are disposed to use that as their excuse for not coming themselves, so be it. At any rate, it will be a change from the one about the baby-sitter turning up late.

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The Times Diary

But are women ready to wear it?

I had never been to a fashion show and, when there, not much time left. I accepted the invitation to a London gambling club yesterday to see what Yuki was. Yuki is a Japanese designer, based in London, with something of a reputation for haute couture. This was to be a big occasion; his first range of ready-to-wear clothes.

On arrival I was directed upstairs, where the fashion writers were having breakfast. They were an odd-looking bunch of women, many of them very tall, mostly over-dressed and too heavily made-up for the time of day.

Many wore tan boots reaching to just below the knee, some beneath Jodhpur-style leggings, others with mid-length skirts. Some told each other how good they were looking, and inquired whether they had enjoyed Paris.

Downstairs, the seats were arranged round an oblong space where the models were to parade. Yuki appeared, wearing a black velvet jerkin with no fastening at the front. It reminded me of the tunics I used to wear in the Royal Navy, and I expect he had almost as much trouble gearing it on.

In his brief and soft-spoken introduction, he announced that was going to dispense with the usual background music, so that we could concentrate on the clothes. This was the first disappointment. I had been looking forward to the tinkly tunes of *A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody*, which I had understood accompanied such affairs.

It was a winter collection, and Yuki is expecting some extreme weather, for the models were all well wrapped up. Many

of the dresses had high collars reaching above the chin, worn with balloon-like wooden hats which came down below the ears. The models' faces peered out from beneath, though through the visor of an armoured helmet. Many of the tops stretched down to the middle of the wearers' thighs, keeping their bottoms well wrapped—good for smart weekend parties in country houses with no central heating.

The accessories were intriguing. Many of the dresses were worn with circular hats shaped like ring doughnuts, the crown of the head poking through the middle. One model wore what I can only describe as a giant false eyelash which covered the whole width of her forehead, without a break.

The clothes seemed attractive, heavily angular in shape and with a look which I imagine is what they mean by ethnic. Yuki is fond of tartan, which represents a sort of ethnicity.

I could not, though, imagine anyone I know wearing them, except models or fashion writers. They may be ready to wear, but is anyone ready to wear them? What, then, was I to make of his haute couture collection which followed?

For that he employed a new set of models, many of them foreign—perhaps calculating

the tiny principality of Luxembourg.

There were no excuses for the feeble British. True, they had dozens of near misses. True, they gave some good decisions. True, his refusal to award a penalty when an England player was assassinated in the goal area. But getting the ball in the back of the net is what it is all about, and that we were dismally lacking.

The gallant little Luxembourgers—who have not won a game since they beat Prussia in 1873—were jubilant. "I am jubilant," declared Nato God, their diminutive manager. "Especially since I had two men on my side who had never played football before."

There was jubilation too from Italy, now confident of keeping England out of the World Cup final in Argentina. Baccuzzi Net, their shrewd soccer boss, slipped out of Wembley last night wearing an enigmatic smile. "I would say it is back to the drawing board for England now," he said.

He is right. No Briton can do anything but hang his head in shame.

Result: England 5, Luxembourg 0.

An outraged member of the Upper House sends me this extract from the House's minutes of proceedings as an example of the terrible indignities their Lordships inflict on successful petitioners: "Report made by the Lord Chancellor that Gerald Duke of Leinster had established his claim to the Dukedom of Leinster; and ordered to lie on the Table."

Our shame

Justow Serious, my football correspondent, writes:

It was another night of shame for English football at Wembley on Wednesday night. The flower of British skill, the cream of the first and second divisions, were humiliated by

Holidays in Greece

Sunny release from prison of routine

by Arthur Foss

not fade and the irrepressible ghosts of my Greek friends will keep me company in the twilight hours.

Then from the mid-1950s there were holidays by the Aegean and Ionian, always starting with that wonderful feeling, when first stepping into the dry heat of summer sun, of release, however brief, from the prison of routine. Behind the sand beach rose olive groves, hills or mountains with the hawing shapes of islands backdropped from the sea's dark blue horizon.

However, what I shall remember in my daze may then no longer exist. Many little fishing villages may have grown into large resorts, the olive trees cut down to make way for hotels and villas, as elsewhere in the Mediterranean. I shall try to suffice regretfully on those scenes, even where the new architecture is quite out of scale with the landscape. The Greeks have been invaded, fought and suffered more than most European nations, as elsewhere, to make way for modern developments.

It would also be churlish to deplore the opening up to the multitudes of one's favourite haunts. Such secrets are always eventually revealed. "A place, like a person", C. E. Montague wrote on this theme, "must take the chances of life as they come. If it is great it must face the normal troubles of greatness."

In any case, the Greek coast is a long one. There will always be havens for those in search of solitude and simplicity—so at least I fervently hope. The balance sheet must be fairly drawn up.

So I started wondering where I should go in Greece if allowed one final journey and decided on the areas I know best—the Ionian Islands, Epirus and Macedonia. In the Ionian not only luxurious Corfu but Zakynthos, Cephalonia and Ithaca also call.

Today Greece is immensely popular—but that is nothing new. From immemorial days she has proved an irresistible attraction. Fresh EDES guerrillas, we shared a bottle of *tsipouro*, the home-brewed spirit of Roumeli, with a cheerful elderly couple who insisted that the guerrillas should garrison the nearby village, beyond Berlin. Such memories do not go far.



Balconies form a trellis for vines at Arnsia on the Khalkidiki peninsula.

summer glass" where in Kastoria, and in Salonica, hope, remain to explore or us, inquisitive, outspoken tourists, as on occasion, nearly always visit such places as the Zagori, between Ioannina and the Pindus mountains.

1842-49 Edward Lear, to whom the poem was dedicated, wrote rhapsodically about the settings of Vianika and Edessa on the Egnatian Way and of Epirot Ioannina beside its green enigmatic lake.

Northern Greece, in particular has its full share of antiquities—Philippi, where St Paul was imprisoned; Pella, birthplace of Alexander the Great; and Dodone, near Ioannina, the oldest of all Greek oracles. There are many fine Byzantine churches, especially in

Thessaly and above all on the line of Khalkidiki—one Mount Athos, where a medieval faith still lingers in surroundings of outstanding beauty; here would be a fitting destination for a final fling.

But not yet! Many years, I

have, remain to explore or us, inquisitive, outspoken tourists, as on occasion, nearly always visit such places as the Zagori, between Ioannina and the Pindus mountains.

Some remarkable Byzantine monasteries, the interiors of the chapels painted in frescoes, where Sarekatsani shepherds, live on the descendants of Greeks who were never conquered by the Turks, or the coast-line of Khalkidiki—one Mount Athos, where a medieval faith still lingers in surroundings of outstanding beauty; here would be a fitting destination for a final fling.

Throughout Greece, however, the scenery is never complete without the salty presence of the inhabitants; extrovert, humorous, generally friendly, they bring the landscape to life. Together they make an unforgettable scene. I only hope that they do not find the present pace of development too much for them.

The author has written a book on The Ionian Islands (Paber £2.75) and is engaged in writing one on the Epirus to be published next year. In May, 1978, he will conduct a tour round Byzantine Greece for Serenissima Travel.

Aiming to set an example

by Mario Modiano

versus conservation of the environment. He said: "What we are looking for is the golden mean."

Tourism itself could not exist without conservation, he said. "We want to make Greece a model country for tourism development—a country where development keeps pace with the protection and even the improvement of the environment," he added.

These misgivings were born in the wake of a particularly successful tourist year in 1976 when the number of foreign visitors soared by one third to a record of 4,243,563.

Mr George Rallis who, as minister in charge of the Prince Minister's Office, is responsible for laying down the Government's policy on tourism, says: "I believe that by 1982 we shall have 6,500,000 tourists each spending 12 days in Greece."

Some people thought that this was the maximum Greece could ever take. "Nonsense," Mr Rallis said. "What we must do is to increase the inflow gradually without creating problems for the country or for the tourist."

The minister was opposed to tourism on a gigantic scale because of the risks involved: "If in one year you get 20 million tourists, and in the next this drops to 10 million, your private tourist industry will be exterminated," he said.

Many Greeks believe that tourism is already affecting the environment through large-scale development, especially in the most beautiful areas of the country, and that it threatens to increase pollution, alter the social structure of Greek society, and corrupt the nation's cultural values.

The Greek Government is certainly aware of the hazards involved and is already making plans to neutralize the adverse side-effects of hotel.

The tourist organization is spending £2m this year for the traditional settlements. One of the projects inspired by this philosophy got in such swing this year. Mr Rallis said: "We have selected six places which are traditional settlements, each an unspoilt village representative of its area—architecturally, culturally and physically."

The tourist organization was buying or renting houses in the village, many of them abandoned, refurbishing them inside and out, and improving essential amenities without tampering with the traditional harmony. Then they will be rented to the tourists.

The "traditional settlements" are: Vathia in the Mani, Makryni on Mount Pilion, Mesa on Chios, Zagoria in Epirus, Fiscardo on Cephalonia, and St John Theologos on Thasos.

"We sign a contract with the owners for 10 or 15 years," Mr Rallis said. "They have the right to use it one or two months each year. We will have 400 beds in such houses this year. Next year 800 beds. And there are signs that the local people are appreciating what we are doing to preserve the national heritage, and are willing to cooperate."

The idea of reviving the traditional settlements was also financially sound as under the project the investment would be £1,600 to £2,000 a bed, against £8,000 a bed for a hotel.

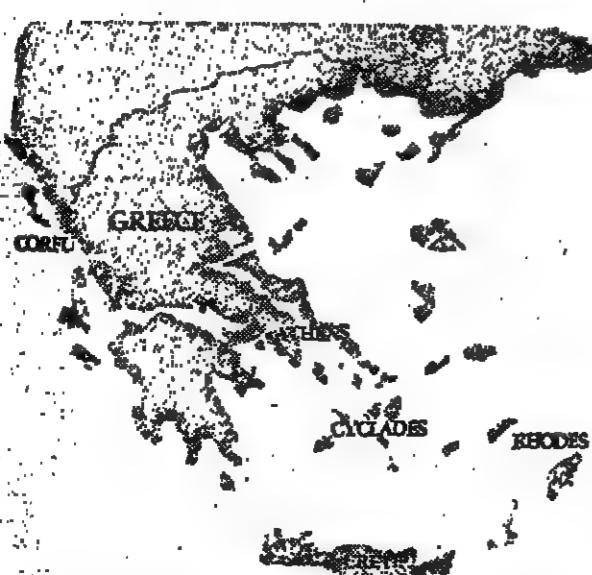
One way of softening the impact of mass tourism is to encourage the construction of "Even more important is that in this way you develop areas which are not amenable to other forms of economic development", the minister said.

Another way of softening the impact of mass tourism was to extend the tourist season and spread the number of visitors more evenly throughout the year, avoiding the congestion of mid-summer. To achieve this

continued on page IV

It is most fitting that a people with such a feeling for fun, music and life itself, should choose me as their favourite god.

Dionysus, God of the vine and the good life



The sun bathes a string of beaches in gold from the very first day of spring to the last of autumn, from the relaxed, temperate, uncrowded months of off-season Greece, to the popularity and excesses of the summer heights.

And none of this is confined to Athens.

Incomparable Corfu is famous the world over. And only seeing is believing.

The many faces of Crete entertain the tourist in a manner worthy of an island that saw the birth of our civilisation.

Rhodes, the universally popular Mediterranean playground, moves at a pace tailored to the energetic.

Whilst the Cycladic Isles are rightly considered a "gift from the gods". The snail's pace of untouched Kea. The abundance of good living on Naxos, where Dionysus once presided over "wine classes".

And mysterious Santorini, where lost Atlantis may yet be found.

Such a limited tour can only tempt, but if tempted you are, just write to: The National Tourist Organisation of Greece, 195-197 Regent Street, London W1. Or call 01-734 5997/8/9. Or ask your travel agent.

We'll give you all the information on the incredible choice of holidays, and how to fly there on our National Airline, Olympic Airways.

And whether you're a package tourer, a cruiser, or a camper, you are certain, like Dionysus before you, to be totally intoxicated by the Greek experience.



Greece and the Hellenic Isles.

They're closer than you think.

Athens: do it yourself

by Sheila Walsh

There is more to Athens than can ever be packed into a guided tour, so my advice to the discerning tourist is: explore the city on your own. During an un-regimented five-day visit one can not only see the city, but enjoy it and come to feel something of an Athenian.

It need not even cost a fortune if you stay at comfortable B-class hotels such as the centrally located Galaxy, Minerva or the Athenian Inn, where double rooms with bath and continental breakfast cost about £12 a night.

Once you have your base, you can set out to discover the city. For the past 2,500 years visiting Athens has meant seeing the Acropolis. This year one sees scarfs and working there as the experts work to save the monuments of the Acropolis from the ravages of the pollution produced by the modern traffic and the chimneys of modern Athens. Despite scaffolding the Parthenon remains majestic.

There is much to be said for going out to the National Museum while the impressions of the Acropolis are still fresh in one's mind. Its vast collection of the art of ancient Greece makes it one of the world's great museums.

One of the museum's most exciting treasures, the

village houses that takes the visitor into another world. It was built in the middle of the nineteenth century by island stone-masons who had come to Athens to work, and made for themselves a replica of their village on the island of Amorgos. Many of their houses still stand. From the narrow streets stand smaller glimpses courtyards with fig trees, women doing their washing, and unexpected views of the Acropolis or a tiny white church.

Although Sunion is 43 miles away, no trip to Athens would be complete without a visit to its Temple of Poseidon and the drive along the sparkling coastline of Attica. The temple stands dramatically on a rocky headland high over the sea. Lord Byron was a visitor, and not only immortalised Thespilos of dashingly muscled nineteenth-century Greek heroes. The small, well-arranged museum also has excellent collections of traditional Greek embroidery and costumes.

Another day should be spent around the Plaka, the old quarter of modern Athens. It leads a double life. By night it is filled with high-decibel bouzouki music, neon signs, busy tavernas and a carnival air. By day it is a quiet neighbourhood with small, old-fashioned houses, artisans' shops and winding streets that work their way up to the foot of the Acropolis.

In the upper reaches of the Plaka nestles the small area known as Anafiotika, a cluster of whitewashed

The nocturnal Plaka is also part of Athens life, and dinner at the Xynos taverna (Anghelon, Yerapandros 4) is one of the pleasure ways of sampling it. In the courtyard or in the inside rooms decorated with Athenian scenes, the food is typically Greek, washed down with good retsina to the accompaniment of Greek musicians. The bill should be about dr 200 (£3.17) a person with wine.

Although Sunion is 43 miles away, no trip to Athens would be complete without a visit to its Temple of Poseidon and the drive along the sparkling coastline of Attica. The temple stands dramatically on a rocky headland high over the sea. Lord Byron was a visitor, and not only immortalised Thespilos of dashingly muscled nineteenth-century Greek heroes. The small, well-arranged museum also has excellent collections of traditional Greek embroidery and costumes.

One of Athens's newest museums is high up in the Plaka. The Kanellopoulos Museum, a handsome neoclassical mansion, houses a collection of pottery, ceramics, jewelry and icons spanning Greek history from ancient to medieval times.

The Athens flea market, Monastiraki, is close to the Plaka. It is unlikely to yield any spectacular bargains because the sellers know their wares. But the wares and the merchants make a colourful show.

Athens also offers a quick trip to Byzantium. The first stop should be the Byzantine Museum, which oddly enough is housed in a Florentine-styled villa. The museum contains an enormous collection of icons and models of churches. Follow the museum visit with a picnic lunch near the Kaisariani Monastery. The eleventh-century Byzantine monastery stands on the pine-covered slopes of Mount Hymettus, where old women gather wild thyme and sage. The monasteries products are cool and shaded even on the hottest day.

A late afternoon trip to the eleventh-century church and cloister at Daphni, with its magnificent mosaics, could round off the day. There is also the summer wine festival at Daphni, lashings of Greek music and dance.

Another day in Athens might well start with a look at Athens from a different angle. Go to the top of Mount Lycabettos, the city's other hill. A funicular climbs to a whitewashed chapel at the summit and a spectacular view of Athens, the sea, and on a clear day, the islands. On some days however one can also see the cloud of smog that is damaging the Acropolis monuments. Halfway down the hill a cafe offers a shady terrace, nice mezes and a view.

Part of the panoramas seen from Lycabettos is Tourkolimano, the picture-esque small boat port halfway between Athens and Piraeus. It may seem familiar because the harbour lined with brightly coloured restaurant awnings makes a perfect scene for travel posters. Although the place has most definitely been "discovered" the Athenians themselves still go there for Tourkolimano's engaging mixture of retsina, fish, Greek salad and bouza. In hot weather it is best to go there at dinner time.

by John Carter

Because Mr John C. Carras chose to approach the task of holiday resort development from a different viewpoint, the Greeks are building their first sizable amphitheatre for 2,000

years, thousands of citrus, olive and almond trees have been planted on previously barren land; a cattle breeding establishment has been launched, and a million vines planned on a 4,500-acre peninsula jutting into the sea in order to recomp

etate musical cruise. Other

facilities added after creation, an old one saved words and little more than lip service paid to the overall environment.

The Carras concept was to make the resort—Porto Carras—a place where a tourist could meet local people and become involved in the way of life. It is an extension of his philosophy as applied to the special interest cruises organized by his shipping company.

To achieve his aim, he reversed the normal development procedure. Generally, this means that hotels, villas and apartments are built as quickly as possible, putting in a network of roads and culverting the land which he had bought from the Athos monasteries. The agricultural development of the estate was carried out over five years and already

the Carras winery produces a million bottles of Teber-

ter-type wine each year. The estate's livestock will

provide an adequate supply of fresh meat for the resort and the planners have even set up an apiary which produces about 10 tons of honey a year.

All this began in the mid-1960s. It was not until 1973 that construction of the resort complex was begun, on a site of about 450 acres with a beach frontage of more than half a mile. When completed and officially opened in 1978 it will be the largest hotel/recreational development under single ownership, with room for 3,000 guests in its two large hotels, its village inn and cottages. There is no doubt that it will alter the pattern of tourism to this generally neglected area of Greece.

It is already receiving visitors, and in May the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra will inaugurate the open-air theatre there when it sets the pattern for the Carras liner *Dame* calls similar developments elsewhere at the port on a special in-

Khalkidiki: the first resort

new community has been created, an old one saved words and little more than lip service paid to the overall environment.

The Carras concept was to make the resort—Porto Carras—a place where a tourist could meet local people and become involved in the way of life. It is an extension of his philosophy as applied to the special interest cruises organized by his shipping company.

To achieve his aim, he reversed the normal development procedure. Generally, this means that

hotels, villas and apartments are built as quickly as possible, putting in a network of roads and culverting the land which he had bought from the Athos monasteries. The agricultural development of the estate was carried out over five years and already

the Carras winery produces a million bottles of Teber-

ter-type wine each year. The estate's livestock will

provide an adequate supply of fresh meat for the resort and the planners have even set up an apiary which produces about 10 tons of honey a year.

All this began in the mid-1960s. It was not until 1973 that construction of the resort complex was begun, on a site of about 450 acres with a beach frontage of more than half a mile. When completed and officially opened in 1978 it will be the largest hotel/recreational development under single ownership, with room for 3,000 guests in its two large hotels, its village inn and cottages. There is no doubt that it will alter the pattern of tourism to this generally neglected area of Greece.

It is already receiving visitors, and in May the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra will inaugurate the open-air theatre there when it sets the pattern for the Carras liner *Dame* calls similar developments elsewhere at the port on a special in-

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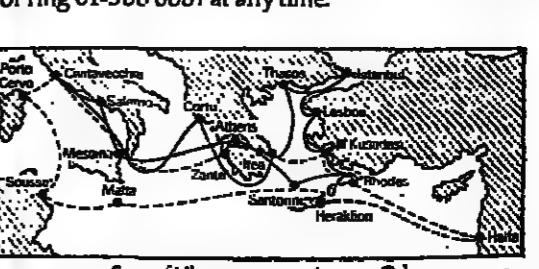
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Athens: do it yourself

by Sheila Walsh

There is more to Athens than can ever be packed into a guided tour, so my advice to the discerning tourist is: explore the city on your own. During an un-regimented five-day visit one can not only see the city, but enjoy it and come to feel something of an Athenian.

It need not even cost a fortune if you stay at comfortable B-class hotels such as the centrally located Galaxy, Minerva or the Athenian Inn, where double rooms with bath and continental breakfast cost about £12 a night.

Once you have your base, you can set out to discover the city. For the past 2,500 years visiting Athens has meant seeing the Acropolis. This year one sees scarfs and working there as the experts work to save the monuments of the Acropolis from the ravages of the pollution produced by the modern traffic and the chimneys of modern Athens. Despite scaffolding the Parthenon remains majestic.

There is much to be said for going out to the National Museum while the impressions of the Acropolis are still fresh in one's mind. Its vast collection of the art of ancient Greece makes it one of the world's great museums.

One of the museum's most exciting treasures, the

Thera exhibit, is often overlooked by visitors because it is on the upper floor. The Thera rooms have frescoes and artifacts excavated in recent years at Akrotiri on the Aegean island of Thera, where a Minoan city was buried intact after a volcanic eruption about 1500 BC. The frescoes, remarkable for their charm, freshness as well as their beauty, give a vivid picture of a highly developed civilization.

All this splendour should be followed by a ready good meal. Gerofitakis (10, Pinakadion Street), which takes a glimpse of the interior of an old village house as it might have been. It is a reconstruction of a room, decorated with wall paintings by the primitive painter Thespilos of dashingly muscled nineteenth-century Greek heroes. The small, well-arranged museum also has excellent collections of traditional Greek embroidery and costumes.

Another day should be spent around the Plaka, the old quarter of modern Athens. It leads a double life. By night it is filled with high-decibel bouzouki music, neon signs, busy tavernas and a carnival air. By day it is a quiet neighbourhood with small, old-fashioned houses, artisans' shops and winding streets that work their way up to the foot of the Acropolis.

In the upper reaches of the Plaka nestles the small area known as Anafiotika, a cluster of whitewashed

village houses that takes the visitor into another world. It was built in the middle of the nineteenth century by island stone-masons who had come to Athens to work, and made for themselves a replica of their village on the island of Amorgos. Many of their houses still stand. From the narrow streets stand smaller glimpses courtyards with fig trees, women doing their washing, and unexpected views of the Acropolis or a tiny white church.

Although Sunion is 43 miles away, no trip to Athens would be complete without a visit to its Temple of Poseidon and the drive along the sparkling coastline of Attica. The temple stands dramatically on a rocky headland high over the sea. Lord Byron was a visitor, and not only immortalised Thespilos of dashingly muscled nineteenth-century Greek heroes. The small, well-arranged museum also has excellent collections of traditional Greek embroidery and costumes.

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How to get the best of both worlds



Koutsounari, a privately restored village which is popular with holidaymakers.

by Gladys Nicol

For some time it has been obvious that a halt must be called to the indiscriminate building of hotels along both the mainland and island coastlines of Greece if the highly individual atmosphere is to be maintained.

The National Tourist Organization of Greece (ETO) also believes that half the attraction for visitors to their country is the opportunity to meet and live alongside local inhabitants rather than to be incarcerated in tourist complexes meeting only other tourists. The organization believes it has found a solution which could offer this and could, at the same time, provide the work to stop the inevitable drift to the already overcrowded cities and resorts by the younger members of rural communities.

The ETO will continue to invest in tourist accommodation, but by adapting some

the most interesting and

village traditional houses in various provinces so that the holidaymaker will come to villages rather than

that the villages should disappear in the service of the visitor. The scheme is ambitious. It is also costly, for initial outlay is expected to be in the region of £2m. Work has begun on both

the interior and exterior

restoration of properties,

and on the provision of ade-

tavernas, restaurants and so

on. In most instances Greek

families will be living in close proximity, so that

visitors can become part of

local community life more

easily.

On Santorini, for instance

50 small houses, each

averaging five rooms, are

being restored, while on

Chios, at Mesta, 50 houses

of a similar size will

become available, and, on

the both islands, a small proportion

will be ready to receive the help of their Greek

first occupants this summer, with the remainder

expected to be the rural way

completed by 1978. Rental of

is while still enjoying

the facilities of plumbing and gas

offices during 1977, but the infac-

tory service.

final scale of charges has not yet been fixed.

The traditional houses of Pilion in northern Greece are much larger in concept. Mostly, they are taller and larger, as befits both landscape and the climate, and will offer an interesting opportunity for visitors to stay in properties otherwise seldom open to foreigners. The eight houses scheduled for restoration in the villages of Vassita and Makriotsa, will have 15 and 20 rooms apiece, and again some of the most vivid and haunting are those of the flowers and plants, both wild and cultivated, which cover the land in such rich variety. Spring visits provide the greatest visual treats, while in mid-summer, with so much of the heat, visitors can make many exciting finds in the mountainous regions where the flora is remarkable.

In the autumn, the spectacle of the vintage enlivens many areas, and by choosing your destination carefully searching for plants can be rewarding. The winter climate generally

is milder than most parts of Western and Eastern Europe. Then the delicate beauty of snowdrops and brilliant-coloured crocuses and anemones is a striking feature of the flora in many places.

When these initial projects are completed others will follow. Two of them, at Vassita and at the Tower of Areopoli near Mani, are in the Peloponnese, one is at Fiskardo in Cephalonia, and at Zagoria in northern Epirus so that, when completed, the traditional settlements will be scattered through Greece and cover many typical examples of architecture and ways of

life. The idea is not new. Even within Greece, there is already one delightful privately restored village proving exceptionally popular, with holidaymakers, which is featured in the brochure of Aitken, Erne Low, Olympia, and Travel Workshop. This is at Koutsounari in southern Crete, near Ferapontos, and is the brainchild of Elena Nakou, whose Elounda Beach complex in Crete is so successful.

Costs at Koutsounari vary slightly with season and with operators, dependent on whether a car is included in the package, but, broadly speaking, a fortnight in early June, with a cottage for six people, cleaning services and car hire is about £220 each. By making private arrangements a similar cottage costs a little over £100 a week, including cleaning

services, linen and so on, but no flights or car hire are included.

This could provide the both worlds when their first occupants this summer, with the remainder expected to be the rural way completed by 1978. Rental of is while still enjoying

the facilities of plumbing and gas

offices during 1977, but the infac-

tory service.

Snow can usually be

seen on from January to the middle of March at altitudes above 1,500 metres.

Skiing in Greece is a new sport and may not suit the visitor who wants to streamline organisation, various hotels and nightclubs of the established Alpine centres. But the older who gets off the beaten track and stays in picturesque villages may enjoy following the Greeks in the discovery of their snow-topped mountains.

There are four major ski-centres Mount Pilion (1,545 metres), near Volos in central Greece, has chairlifts at Agrofokas, near the village of Hania. Accommodation is available in Hamia, Portaria and Zagora, as well as in the town of Volos 17 miles away.

Mount Vermion (2,065 metres) is in northern Greece. The three lifts are near the village of Seli, where there is accommodation. There are also hotels at Naoussa, 11 miles away, and Verria 18 miles away. Mount Parnassos (2,457 metres), above Delphi, has lifts at Gerovrachos and Pteroklos. There are hotels at Arachova and Delphi, 14 miles and nine miles away respectively. The Pindos range in north-west Greece has lifts near the village of Metsovo, where accommodation is available.

Yachting can be sport or sybaritic cruising, but either way it offers an escape from the other tourists to the "undiscovered" islands and coves of Greece. Charter yachts with crew in Greece range from \$250 to \$2,000 a day. There are some bareboat charters available for qualified yachtsmen who do not want a crew.

The Government has recently decreed that only Greek-flag yachts may ply for charter in Greece. The elimination of foreign-flag vessels from the market has reduced the number of yachts available.

Seaside resort hotels are beginning to make small sailing boats available for hire to guests by the hour or the day. For members of foreign yacht clubs that have reciprocal agreements with the Yacht Club of Greece, it is possible to take one of the club's small boats out for a spin in the Saronic Gulf.

S.W.

Haunting memories

by Joyce Rackham

Of all the memories of Greece which endure long after one's travels are over, some of the most vivid and haunting are those of the flowers and plants, both

wild and cultivated, which cover the land in such rich variety. Spring visits provide the greatest visual

treats, while in mid-summer, with so much of the heat,

visitors can make

many exciting finds in the

mountainous regions where the flora is remarkable.

In the autumn, the specta-

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and brilliant-coloured cro-

cuses and anemones is a

striking feature of the flora

in many places.

A number of tour operators arrange special

holidays for flower-lovers,

combining them with visits

to ancient sites, sometimes

with bird-watching or

tours of national parks.

Peregrine Holidays, part of

Corfu and Cyprus, have

several imaginative

tours in Crete, the Pelopon-

nes, Macedonia and northern

Greece, accompanied by

expert lecturers. Prices are from about £330

for a fortnight, with half

board.

Corfu Villas are running Wild Flower Tours to Corfu in late April and in May, costing about £150 for a week at the delightful Cavalieri Hotel in Corfu town and escorted by a local expert. Corfu's flora includes many beautiful terrestrial orchids.

Fairways and Swinfords,

whose more adventurous

travels include Himalayan

trekking and flower hunting

in Nepal and Kashmir, are

running spring and autumn

floral tours to Northern

Greece and to Crete and

the Cyclades.

Lawrence Durrell, in his

nostalgic *Reflections on a*

Marine Venus, written after

a stay in Rhodes, gives a

describing and useful

Short Calendar of Senses and Flowers, at the end, adding

a few local superstitions

and legends to good effect.

One spring visit to Rhodes

this book was an admirable

travelling companion, as we

drove along country roads

past fields ablaze with

golden crown daisies, masses

of poppies and brilliant blue

larkspur.

An essential item in the

luggage of any flower

enthusiast visiting

Greece should be the

newly published *Flowers of*

Greece by Anthony Huxley

and William Taylor (Charte

and Windus, £3.95, paper-

back). It is well written, richly illus-

trated both with colour pic-

tures and line drawings, and

combines the essential infor-

mation on a wide range of

the flowers and plants with

some of the myths and

legends they inspired, and

the ancient medicinal reme-

dises for which they were

used.

The chapter on island

flowers devotes much space

to Crete, which has 130

species, including flora

too. We found early May

was a marvellous time to go

there, with May 1 being a

bank holiday.

Erna Low lists 14-day

holidays in the superbly ren-

ovated village houses of

Koutsounari, in southern

Crete, which would make an

ideal base for studying

botany, bird-watching or

just communing with nature

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or three people sharing).

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2. Chandris operate a ferry service between Italy and Greece. From June the PATRIS will start her bi-weekly



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THE BREAKDOWN IN MOSCOW

It will take a little time to digest the implications of the Soviet rebuff to Mr Vance in Moscow, but the first reaction need not be too pessimistic. Mr Vance delivered to the Russians, almost without warning, a package of far-reaching proposals on arms control which could not be digested immediately. Therefore the choice for the Russians was between taking note of the proposal in an open-minded and conciliatory manner or rejecting them out of hand. That they chose the second alternative is not surprising or even, at this stage, particularly disturbing.

In the first place they are anxious to demonstrate to President Carter that their stand on human rights is jeopardizing all aspects of détente. They would like to persuade him that he cannot negotiate effectively on arms control or on anything else without muting his statements on the subject. They will have been reinforced in their attitude by his decision, shortly before Mr Vance's talks, to ask for more money for broadcasts to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe by Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe. Hence it suits them to be less than immediately cooperative at this moment.

Secondly, the arms control package itself confronts them with serious difficulties, and they may feel they are more likely to get something better if they do not even accept it as a basis for discussion. Mr Carter has staked a lot on progress in this field so they know he will feel under pressure to try again. There is still a little time in hand as the Salt I Agreement does not run out until October.

If this is how the Russians

are thinking there will soon be signals on the way to Washington and negotiations will get under way. But the difficulties should not be underestimated. In crude outline what has happened is this. The Salt I agreement was supposed to establish a rough balance by allowing the Russians more missiles to compensate for America's lead in multiple warheads, but the Russians fairly rapidly developed their own multiple warheads, so Salt II, which was outlined in Vladivostok in 1974, tried to deal with this by specifying how many missiles on each side could be equipped with multiple warheads. This agreement was also overtaken by technology. The Cruise missile appeared on the scene and upset all existing categories by being a flying bomb of extraordinary versatility, capable of being launched from land, sea or air with a variety of warheads, ranges and roles.

Mr Brezhnev's rejection of the American proposals therefore expresses something far more substantial than a fit of pique over human rights. But with luck it probably also expresses something less than total refusal to negotiate on arms control. Although it is as clear to the Russians as to everyone else that arms control alone will not solve everything, or even stop all aspects of the arms race, they must see that they have a real interest in trying for an agreement. They know that Mr Carter is now in a very strong position in Washington, and that if there is no agreement he could easily get congressional support for a very substantial increase in the American defence effort. They must also know that if they challenge him to an all-out arms race he will win.

The Russians wanted the Cruise missile included in Salt II. The Americans refused. In January, 1976, Dr Kissinger offered to impose restraints on it but when he returned to Washington it emerged that he had not fully understood the problems involved (he was not the only one), so three months later the Americans suggested signing Salt II on the original basis and dealing later with the Cruise missile. The Russians rejected this and they have now rejected roughly the same offer again, for it was Mr Vance's second preference.

But Mr Vance's first preference was new. It involved deep cuts in missiles coupled with restraints on Cruise missiles. For both sides this raises political

Mr Healey's Budget

From Mr J. Mortimer Goudry

Sir, The Chancellor in his Budget speech yesterday (March 29) said: "I am particularly concerned about elderly people who find themselves liable to the surcharge on the income from savings which are quite modest in modern terms." Despite that, he proposes to make quite paltry concessions (in modern terms!).

Is it not high time that the surcharge should be completely removed, for, at least, those over 65? If that cannot be done, the surcharge should be removed from income from money saved out of taxed earnings. All investment income is today called "Unearned Income". I would concede that income from savings which is possibly uncertain, but income from wealth acquired out of taxed earnings is surely well-earned!

Yours faithfully,
J. MORTIMER GOUDRY,
White Cottage,
Leatham,
Wharfedale,
Yorkshire.
March 30.

From the Reverend M. E. Bennett

Sir, Since the increased child benefit was awarded many months ago and is not part of the recent budget, would the Chancellor kindly explain what the reductions in income tax will benefit those of us with families who did not pay any tax before the budget ever appeared but who will now have to pay increased prices as a result of the switch to indirect taxation?

Yours sincerely,
M. E. BENNETT,
Swindon Rectory,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.

From Mr S. H. Cooke

Sir, If I correctly understand the tables you publish today, it appears that a married couple with no child-

ren and an earned income above £10,000 p.a. will receive greater benefits from the Budget proposals than a married couple with a similar income and two children under 11 after taking into account child benefits. The converse would appear to be the case for incomes below £7,000 p.a.

Is this to be called socio-fiscal engineering?

Yours faithfully,
S. H. COOKE,
10 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.
March 30.

From Mr David Eric

Sir, Many of us who live and work in the rural counties are unimpressed by Mr Healey's plios little bonyly justifying his increased tax burdens on the "private motorist" on conservation grounds. Since we have no choice but to continue to motor to work, we must grudgingly hand him yet another slice of our hard-earned pay to spend as he thinks fit?

He tells us that "petrol will still be cheaper in Britain than in nearly all other countries of the European Community". This may be true in nominal terms, but where else do they have to work so many hours to earn the cash to fill up their tank?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ERIC,
15 St Peters Road,
Cirencester,
Gloucestershire.
March 30.

From Mrs N. Tollenen

Sir, The Chancellor of the Exchequer puts an additional tax on cigarettes. No further tax on pipe tobacco "which plays an important part in the life of many retired people".

Is this not blatant sex discrimination?

Faithfully,
N. TOLLENEN,
74 Chester Square, SW1.

From Mr Gerald Nethercot

Sir, In the welter of confused thinking which is likely to result from the Annan Committee report one issue of importance may be submerged by the inevitably major discussion regarding the structure of television: that issue is local radio.

Local radio was set up by the BBC in 1967-68 with eight pioneer stations which, although happily autonomous, had a clear objective. This objective was to provide their local communities with an all-round service of programmes with an emphasis on news, topicality, discussion of local issues, and, not least, carefully devised educational output of local interest; in other words to engender a sense of involvement in these communities. In this, to the surprise of many, they succeeded.

Some independent contractors, particularly the smaller ones, have more to fear from a second channel than newspapers. The press is used to competition from television, and used to a precarious living. Television is used to neither.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL POOLE,
22 Castle Green,
Weybridge, Surrey.
March 31.

Atrocities in Cambodia

From Dr Jonathan Mirsky

Sir, Some time ago when Soxhetsyn was broadcasting in this country, Bernard Levin went to great lengths to assert that the basic message was: tell the truth. Since Mr Levin (March 30) is widely appreciated for not mincing words he will welcome a few on the matter of Cambodia.

I want to be clear about my position. What has happened in Cambodia since "liberation" is horrible. Full stop.

Mr Levin's own position, however, is badly flawed. Did he ever condemn American bombing in Cambodia? Or did he welcome and encourage it? He speaks of how pleasant Cambodia used to be. Indeed it was. I was there during the Sihanouk period which American action brought to a catastrophic finale, an action praised by Mr Levin.

He is, moreover, misinformed and, worse, misinforming about previous critics of the war. I will name two distinguished ones: Jean Lacouture, the French authority on Indochina, and Anthony Lewis, a political columnist of *The New York Times*. Both these men opposed the war for years, and now, with equal vigour, they have striven to expose the situation as it is, thus showing precisely the capacity to speak the whole truth, which Mr Levin fails to do but does not, in this instance, possess.

Mr Lewis conveniently provided both views in a recent column. United States policy helped bring disaster on Cambodia and Lacouture knows it. Today's reality, he says, should shame those in the Nixon Administration who bombed and laid waste Cambodia, undermining Sihanouk's regime and refusing to pursue negotiations with him in Peking, making an unmitigated

succes.

Whatever "organizational fog" Annan may accuse the BBC of, this was quite clear.

Without going into the merits or demerits of commercial intervention in this field of broadcasting, one is left with an impression of "fog" inside the Committee about the function and structure of BBC local radio. To recommend the holding-off of local stations from their present organization displays a lack of knowledge of the longitude.

There is a two-way traffic in news, and other programmes, in background information and ideas—not to mention technical services—with which local radio stations could not provide a proper service. And the national networks would surely miss grass roots information. This is the devolution which some of us sought—the "escape from over-centralization", to quote the late Lord Simon of Wythenshaw. And it has worked admirably.

To suggest, as Annan does, the setting up of a separate local radio authority (especially if financed by commercial interests, with all the problems that could bring) is to lose all sense of realism. I write this as one with direct experience in both network and local broadcasting and, bluntly, looked at the composition of the Committee with astonishment. The Committee lacked sufficient injection of professional knowledge among its members.

The setting up of an independent local radio authority will not in any way improve the quality or the coverage of programme output for local communities. The "back-up" will simply not be there in terms of facilities, whether programme feeding, technical resources or research information. It is, as I said, a matter of logistics which works both ways.

The Annan report presents the local radio advisory councils with the "un-fogged" duty, in the interests of the communities they serve, to oppose this part of Annan tooth and nail. They must, or they will show themselves false to the principles of local radio which they accepted by becoming members of such councils. They must alert local opinion in a way which they can then present strongly to the Government. They must not wait for the White Paper—that would be too late, and by acting now they can influence the policy of the White Paper.

Yours faithfully,

GERALD NETHERCOT. Former Manager, BBC Radio Nottingham, David House, St George's Street, Naxxar, Malta, GC.

March 25.

Khmer Rouge victory all the more likely". But he rightly sees that as no reason for silence about Cambodia today."

When is Mr Levin going to break his silence about Cambodia yesterday?

Yours,
JONATHAN MIRSKY,
21 Priory Grove,
Stockwell, SW8.

March 30.

From Dr Terry Gough

Sir, I refer to Bernard Levin's article on the Cambodian People (March 30) and, like him, find the facts so terrible that we wish they were not true. Working in a refugee camp in Thailand we have first-hand accounts of the barbaric acts of the Khmer Rouge, so consistently ignored by the free world. Even the visitation of Khmer Rouge soldiers on to Thai soil one night in January, to extend the terror they have been inflicting on their own people, was only briefly reported in a few newspapers. The Bangkok Post has published a book on this event with illustrations so hideous that I have tried to forget the existence of my own copy. It shows the mutilated bodies of children and their parents, scattered about the fields near their homes.

We fear that although the peoples and governments of the free world may look on, they do not wish to see. If we delay too long, there may be nothing left to see.

I want to be clear about my position. What has happened in Cambodia since "liberation" is horrible. Full stop.

Mr Levin's own position, however, is badly flawed. Did he ever condemn American bombing in Cambodia? Or did he welcome and encourage it? He speaks of how pleasant Cambodia used to be. Indeed it was. I was there during the Sihanouk period which American action brought to a catastrophic finale, an action praised by Mr Levin.

He is, moreover, misinformed and, worse, misinforming about previous critics of the war. I will name two distinguished ones: Jean Lacouture, the French authority on Indochina, and Anthony Lewis, a political columnist of *The New York Times*. Both these men opposed the war for years, and now, with equal vigour, they have striven to expose the situation as it is, thus showing precisely the capacity to speak the whole truth, which Mr Levin fails to do but does not, in this instance, possess.

Mr Lewis conveniently provided both views in a recent column.

United States policy helped bring disaster on Cambodia and Lacouture knows it. Today's reality, he says, should shame those in the Nixon Administration who bombed and laid waste Cambodia, undermining Sihanouk's regime and refusing to pursue negotiations with him in Peking, making an unmitigated

atrocities in Cambodia.

Yours faithfully,

TERRY GOUGH,
Hon Secretary,
Project Vietnam Orphans,
10 Frailey Hill,
Woking,
Surrey.

March 29.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The future of broadcasting

From Mr M. Poole

Sir, The Milton Shulman newspaper is unpublishable, indifferent or insensitive to the prospect of a fourth television channel finance from advertising (March 30).

He rightly observes that the mere presence of a fourth channel will not expand total expenditure on advertising. Yet he makes two assumptions: that the channel will automatically attract its necessary finance, and that this revenue will be drawn solely from newspapers. Both assumptions are questionable.

He omits an essential element: the mere existence of a fourth channel will not expand total audiences for television.

A fourth channel will create competition for the existing ITV network, whose audience inevitably will be diluted and therefore relatively more expensive for the advertisers.

The resistance to ITV2 by the Newspaper Publishers Association in their submission to Annan was not based on a right to be protected against a powerful commercial monopoly". Newspapers do not claim such a right, nor should they. What the NPA has argued is that two commercial channels will fail financially, and the public purse would be used to prop them up.

Such positions would create unreal competition for the press.

Some independent contractors, particularly the smaller ones, have more to fear from a second channel than newspapers. The press is used to competition from television, and used to a precarious living. Television is used to neither.

Some, I believe, are genuinely unfair competition for the press.

The setting up of an independent local radio authority will not in any way improve the quality or the coverage of programme output for local communities. The "back-up" will simply not be there in terms of facilities, whether programme feeding, technical resources or research information. It is, as I said, a matter of logistics which works both ways.

The Annan report presents the

local radio advisory councils with the "un-fogged" duty, in the interests of the communities they serve, to oppose this part of Annan tooth and nail. They must, or they will show themselves false to the principles of local radio which they accepted by becoming members of such councils. They must alert local opinion in a way which they can then present strongly to the Government. They must not wait for the White Paper—that would be too late, and by acting now they can influence the policy of the White Paper.

Yours faithfully,

GERALD NETHERCOT. Former Manager, BBC Radio Nottingham, David House, St George's Street, Naxxar, Malta, GC.

March 25.



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE LOST LEADERS OF THE TREASURY

The Liberals are in some danger of making fools of themselves in their opposition to the Budget proposals to increase the duty on petrol and cars. As the Conservatives and the other smaller parties take the same view, the Government might be defeated on this part of the Budget if the Liberals joined in. That would not bring the Government down, nor would it infringe the letter of the Lib-Lab agreement. As Mr Steel pointed out yesterday, that does not require the Liberals to support every detail of Government policy. The Liberals would simply be providing a splendid example of how to strike a bargain and then not make it work.

Having agreed to sustain the Government in office, they naturally want to influence policy. They are determined not to be taken for granted. They are ready, even eager, to throw their weight around. That is fair enough, but they had better be careful where they do it. What they are objecting to now is not a piece of socialist extremism—one would have to be a very

ardent motorist indeed with a preference for getting money out of a higher tax on petrol rather than VAT. They are seeking to stop the Chancellor from pursuing the very strategy that they favour themselves, but by slightly different means. They too want to shift the balance from direct to indirect taxation, but they would like to see the extra burden put on one indirect tax rather than another.

This might be represented as just the kind of minor point on which it is reasonable for Parliament to impose its wishes on the Government without jeopardizing the Government's opponents to defeat it in the House. That sort of conduct would make a coherent strategy impossible. The Liberals should certainly not become Mr Callaghan's sheep; but a parliamentary alliance of this nature cannot work if one party rejects the unpopular parts of a policy or takes the chance to impose the wishes of any special interest it favours.

If this is how the Liberals are thinking, they might have remarked that to lose one permanent secretary might be dismissed as unfortunate, but to lose two looked like carelessness.

Mr Alan Lord's departure for DUNDUP sprang from an approach last autumn. GUINNESS MAHON made their bid for Sir Derek Mitchell in the summer. Both naturally, have stressed that neither policy difference nor personal animosity precipitated their moves. Sir Derek at fifty-five has had a good run, passing through a gilded sequence of jobs. Mr Lord at forty-seven is a different case. He had the prospect of the succession to Sir Douglas Wass as Head of the Treasury before him, unless a future Conservative Prime Minister or Chancellor objected on the ground that his past performance in guiding the industrial strategy disqualifies him from presiding over their new

Ministers. Nineteen seventy-six has claim to be the *annus horribilis*, outstripping even 1947, in the postwar history of the Treasury. Both the management of the economy and the degree of ex-

Consumers and the EEC

From Dr William Roberts

Sir, In his letter published today (*The Times*, March 28) Dr Frager challenges the ability of organizations like my own to represent the consumer interest. He writes in the context of a recent meeting in Brussels between the Bureau Européen des Consommateurs and the President of the Council of Agriculture Ministers where I and colleagues from German, French, Dutch and Belgian consumer

organizations, led by the director of the independent and influential Dutch organization, Consumerbond, put the consumer case. Dr Frager unattractively labels them as "the consumer functionaries" as he has never used. All we would claim is that the cause we are championing is the consumer cause. To be more specific, we have asked the Council of Ministers to impose a freeze on the price of those farm products



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
March 31: The Queen, attended by the Marchioness of Abergavenny, the Lady Susan Hussey, Lieutenant-Colonel the Right Hon. Sir Martin Gaskins, Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Andre, Mr. William Hesketh, Mr. Robert Fellowes, Mr. Ronald Allison, Surgeon-Captain Norman Blacklock, RN, Air Commodore Archie Winskill, Major Robin Broke and Lieutenant-Commander Anthony Blackburn, RN, arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning in a Gannet Boeing 707 aircraft (Captain J. K. Davenport) from Australia.

Her Majesty, having been received at the airport by the Lord Mayor (Lord Chamberlain), the Right Hon James Callaghan, MP (Prime Minister) and First Lord of the Treasury) and Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of Aviation, then drove to Windsor Castle.

The Prince of Wales this morning received Mr Roger du Boulay (Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) and Mr Mark Heath (Head of the West African Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

His Royal Highness received the following members of the Executive Committee of The Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal: Major Sir Michael Haworth, Vice-Admiral Sir George Mackay, Mr John Giles, Mr Nigel Wilson and Colonel Martin Hastings.

The Prince of Wales received Mr Antony Craxton.

By command of The Queen, the Lord Wallace of Coslany (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the arrival of The President Leopold Senghor of the Republic of Senegal and his wife.

Today's engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends cocktail party given by The Royal Yeomanry to mark tenth anniversary of formation of the regiment, Cavalry and Guards Club, 6.30.

Princess Anne, Duchess of Gloucester, is present at dinner of the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire, 7.45.

The Duke of Kent, President of RAF Benevolent Fund, attends anniversary concert, Festival Hall, 7.45.

Latest wills

Last estates include (not before date paid; duty not disclosed): Mr. Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Prinsep, of Chichester £39,445 Landies, Mr. Reginald Knight of Swanley .. £14,225 Patching, Rosina, Wimberley of Sydenham .. £175,783 Thompson, Mr. Leonard, of Garscote, Blackpool emulsion factor, prior to £39,663 Walker, Mr. Arthur Edward, of Henley Hempstead .. £115,455

JOSEPH COOPER

Joseph Cooper, musician and TV personality, writes: "Those of you who have enjoyed great soloists and great orchestras giving superb performances which have enriched your lives with their art, may be moved to think of the time when, through illness or old age, these musicians can no longer FACE THE MUSIC. This is where you can help."

Please send a donation, large or small, it will help to maintain our three homes of residence for elderly and retired musicians and will give comfort to many who long for your support."

Mr. Thomas Armstrong, Chairman, MUSICIANS' BENEVOLENT FUND, 16 Ogle Street, London W1P 7LG

WHO LOVES YOU BABY?

Every child born into the world has the right to be wanted and to live in human dignity. And yet, of the 100 children born every 30 seconds, 20 will die within the year. World population is expanding by 6 million every month and is over-taking social services, food and medical supplies. The world desperately needs planned parenthood. This is our concern and responsibility—make it yours too. Please help.

Population Concern
Concert
27/35 Mortimer St, London W1

Here is my contribution of £
Giro No. 538358

Please send me news report on World Population

Name _____
Address _____

Population Concern, Sponsored by the Family Planning Association Registered Charity No. 220269 in support of the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

well to His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Hon. Mary Morrison has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE

March 31: Lieutenant-Colonel George Vere-Laurie today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's), upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Pyle also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's).

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon laid the Foundation Stone of the new St Saviour's Priory at Haggerston, E2.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell-Preston and Sir Martin Gaskins were in attendance.

Her Majesty gave a Reception this evening for Delegates attending the United Kingdom and Mediterranean Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

KENSINGTON PALACE

March 31: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today attended a Fashion Show arranged by Fashion Promotions at the Inter-Continental Hotel in aid of The Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal.

In the afternoon, Her Royal Highness attended a Fashion Extravaganza arranged by the London Designer Collections at the Inn on the Park.

The Hon. Mrs. Wills and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

THATCHETT HOUSE LODGE

March 31: Princess Alexandra this afternoon visited St. Anthony's Hospital, North Circular.

Her Royal Highness later visited the headquarters of Echo (The Joint Mission Hospital Equipment Board) at Robin Hood Lane, Sutton.

The Lady Mary Pitman-Howard was in attendance.

Her. Willy Brandt, Leader of the Social Democratic Party, Federal Minister of Germany, left the Gloucester hotel yesterday to return to Germany.

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The Duke of Kent, President of RAF Benevolent Fund, attends anniversary concert, Festival Hall, 7.45.

Reception

H.M. Government

Mr. Edward Bishop, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Mrs. Bishop were hosts at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government at Fishmongers' Hall yesterday in honour of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission.

Dinners

H.M. Government

Mr. Edward Bishop, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Mrs. Bishop were hosts at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government at Fishmongers' Hall yesterday in honour of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission.

Birthdays today

Viscount Bridgeman, 81; Dame Dorothy Cawthron, 84; Major General J. R. C. Hamilton, 71; Sir Paul Hasluck, 72; Baroness Spencer-Churchill, 92; the Earl of Stradbroke, 74.

John Evelyn's cabinet fetches £26,000

By Geraldine Norman
Saleroom Correspondent

Continental furniture that had belonged to John Evelyn, the 17th-century eccentric, is up for sale at Christie's yesterday. The star item was an ebony and pietra dura cabinet, probably made for Evelyn in Florence, which reached £26,000 (estimate £10,000). Evelyn's diary entries for 1660 show a fascinating light on how such a piece was put together.

The cabinet's 18 drawers are decorated with rectangular pietra dura panels of flowers and birds and the piece is covered on a multi-colored panel in a four-fold scheme.

On October 24, 1644, Evelyn visited the Grand Ducal collections in the Uffizi, he records: "incomparable tables of Pietra Commessa ... by the same hand who inlays the Altar of St. Laurence, Domenico Benotti of whom I purchased 15 years of this work for a cabinet."

The purchase was apparently made on October 17; on the same day he "bespoke four rare small statues of stucco made only by that rare Artist Ninoello Brocci ..."

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The cabinet is said to be in the manner of Jean Macé of Blois is mentioned in a letter from Evelyn to his wife dated March 1, 1652. It states that the cabinet was made for him in Paris in 1632. It sold yesterday for £2,800 (estimate £1,000)

White of a suitable date to have been acquired by Evelyn himself.



Four new bishops suffragan with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, after their consecration at Westminster Abbey yesterday. They are, from left, the Right Rev Alec Graham (Bedford), Stephen Verney (Repton), Michael Manktelow (Basingstoke), and Anthony Dumper (Dudley).

Forthcoming

Marriages

Mr. C. E. Page

and Mrs. Emma Lubbeck

The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Major-General and Mrs. C. E. Page, of Church Farm House, Old Bosham, Sussex, and Emma, only daughter of the late Lord Arebury and Diana, Lady Arebury, of Lape House, Exmouth, Hampshire.

Mr. F. H. G. Bradley

and Miss C. K. Wood

The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs. H. Bradley, of Kiln Farm, Fernham, Surrey, and Charlotte, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. C. Wood, of Coombe Down, Bemerton, Dorset.

Mr. J. Gerishoff

and Miss E. M. East

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs. J. Gerishoff, of 9 Connaught House, Mount Row, London, W1, and Sarah, daughter of Dr and Mrs. M. Caplin, of 488 Finchley Road, London, NW11.

Mr. J. L. Duncan

and Miss J. E. Moegly

The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs. John Moegly, of Ferry Place, Abberley, Herefordshire, and Diane, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. George Moegly, of North Hills Country Club, near Philadelphia.

Mr. D. C. Jackson

and Miss D. A. M. Bachrach

The engagement is announced between David Cooper, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. David Cooper, of Edgbaston, and Diane Anne Maria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs. Mrs. John Bachrach, of The Hague, Holland.

Captain C. J. M. Notley

and Miss C. L. Ast

The engagement is announced between Christopher Notley, The Light Infantry, son of Major Mr. J. T. S. Notley, York Hill, and Sophie, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. Sherston-Baker, of 3 Sheen Gate Gardens, London, SW1.

Mr. P. Shipman

and Miss S. L. Peres

The engagement is announced between Geoffrey, younger son of Col. and Mrs. C. R. T. Shipman and Mrs. T. St. John, of Northgate, and Gabrielle, younger daughter of Major and Mrs. P. Sherston-Baker, of 3 Sheen Gate Gardens, London, SW1.

Mr. G. Tuff

and Miss G. Sherston-Baker

The engagement is announced between Geoffroy, younger son of Col. and Mrs. C. R. T. Shipman and Mrs. T. St. John, of Northgate, and Gabrielle, younger daughter of Major and Mrs. P. Sherston-Baker, of 3 Sheen Gate Gardens, London, SW1.

Mr. J. G. Beaumont

and Miss E. M. East

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs. J. G. Beaumont, of 10 Grosvenor Gardens, and Emma, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. East, of Worplestone.

Mr. J. L. Duncan

and Miss J. E. Moegly

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The Ombudsman must be seen to be on the people's side

On the tenth anniversary of the Ombudsman,

Sir Barnett Cocks argues

that the office should be an independent one

The devolution proposals which purport to strengthen democratic control over government activity in Scotland and Wales suggest a disturbingly casual approach. The Government White Paper on which the proposals are founded speaks in convincing terms of "the existing complaints machinery (the Ombudsman system)" as "an important protection for the citizen". The Government promises that comparable machinery to investigate complaints of maladministration in Scotland and Wales will be established by the devolution Bill. This is misleading. In so far as the Health Service Commissioners and the Local Government Commissioners, there is, in fact, no Ombudsman to whom the individual citizen has access.

When the Bill for a Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration was introduced in 1966 by the then Leader of the House of Commons, Mr Richard Crossman, he disclaimed any idea that the Government was surreptitiously copying the Scandinavian model. There was no question, he said, of bringing into the British constitution "the notion of the Ombudsman".

In Sweden and in other countries which have adopted its system the Ombudsman's duty is to investigate complaints by individuals outside Parliament against unjust or unfair actions by the agents of the state. In this country, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration is, as his title suggests, the servant of Parliament, only entitled to act at the request of a member, and not permitted to make inquiries into maladministration in government departments on his own account.

The main control of executive action by government departments is still provided by parliamentary questions, adjournment debates and committees of inquiry.

There has been no amendment of the parent Act setting up the office of Parliamentary Commissioner—an office which came into operation on

April 1, 1967—and there is nothing yet which can claim to be an effective and general ombudsman system in Britain. Dr Roy Gregory wrote, in his recent study in depth of the United Kingdom's complaints organization, that "the logic of a Parliamentary Commissioner Scheme requires that MPs and only MPs should know of the Commissioner's functions and existence".

To practice the complaints machinery is even more restricted than the public is led to believe. The Parliamentary Commissioner is responsible solely for complaints referred to him by members of the House of Commons, and not by the often less politically committed members of the Lords.

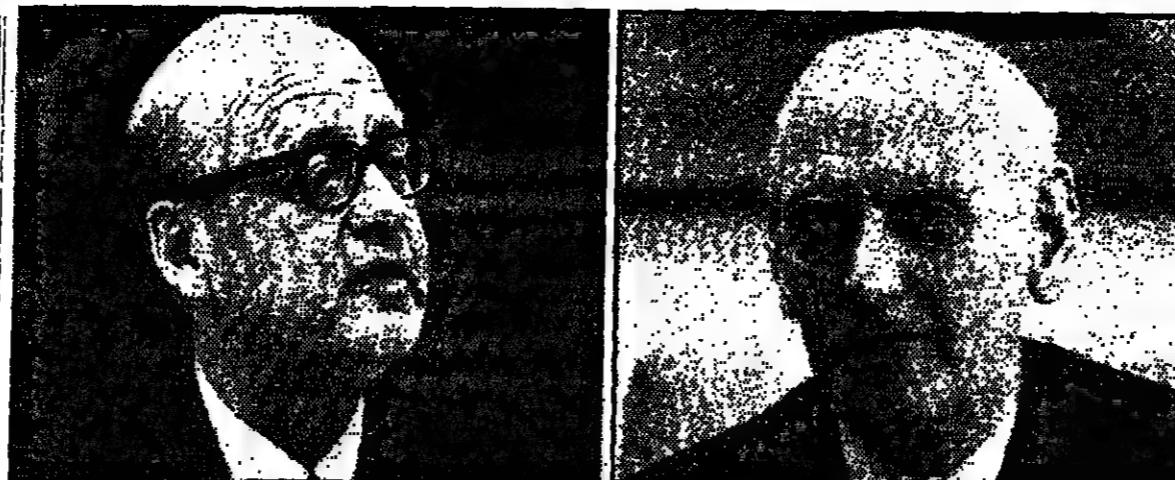
Which members of the Commons are willing to invoke the services of the Parliamentary Commissioner? Their identities are not revealed, but as some four score members are also ministers in the Government, they can hardly be expected to indict the inefficiency of each other's departments of state.

It follows that any grievances of their constituents will not normally be referred to the Parliamentary Commissioner to investigate. In consequence, several hundred thousand voters are deprived of their full democratic rights. These could only be restored by direct access to an Ombudsman, unhampered by the present subordination to members.

In his annual report for 1976,

Sir Idwal Pugh revealed that he had advised 150 complainants with prima facie valid grievances to ask a member to refer their complaints back to him. Only 32 of these eventually reached him for investigation. What happened to the remainder?

The former Parliamentary Commissioner, Sir Alan Marr, in a report written on the eve of his retirement last year, bravely went so far as to express doubts on



Sir Alan Marr (left) and Sir Idwal Pugh.

"whether sufficient regard was being paid . . . to the convenience of members of the public". He added: "We have now and in prospect a series of 'Ombudsman' offices to which different methods of access are, or are to be, statutorily specified, and a member of the public with a composite complaint can be faced with considerable procedural problems in arranging for its complete investigation. There is provision for a measure of coordination between some of the Offices of different Commissioners . . ."

He has only lifted a corner of the curtain which hides a bureaucratic picture of strange complexity. There is at present a strong team of Commissioners for various kinds of complaint set up to harass not only government departments but other Commissioners engaged in various executive activities. The origins of the confusion may be found in hasty legislation in which is often added a designedly helpful clause for the protection of the citizen. In this way, much modern bureaucracy, approved by diverse Acts of Parliament, is erected by compartments which might otherwise have been dealt with by a single Ombudsman Office. The process might be described as bumbledom on the large.

To take an example, the Commissioner for Local Administration in England may be in conflict with the Countryside Commission; the Commissioner for Local Administration for Wales may be jousting against the Forestry Commission while arguing about jurisdiction with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. The Parliamentary Commissioner currently representing the two offices of Health Service Commissioner for England, Health Service Commissioner for Wales and Health Service Commissioner for Scotland may be liaising with the newly created Racial Equality Commission on the question of coloured doctors.

Health and safety at work are obvious factors leading to complaints by individuals. The Act of 1974 on that subject set up a Commission and an executive which operates at Chepstow Place, Paddington, with responsibility for enforcing the provisions of the statute and making new regulations, founded in some cases on complaints of lacuna in the law. At a different location in London—New Oxford Street—the Health Education Council, under a director general, is listening to complaints by individuals concerned with health education. There is also the Medicines Commission in Finsbury Square, which is advising the Department of Health and Social Security on issues of policy under the Medicines Act 1968. Liaison must be maintained by all other Commissioners with all these bodies.

Nationalized industries are exempt from investigation by the Parliamentary Commissioner because each parent Act includes its own complaints machinery for every area, such as the Gas Consumers Council, the Electricity Consumers Councils and the Transport Users Consultative Committee.

In his annual report for 1975, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration gave some significant figures on the misconceptions in the public mind regarding his duties and the legislative restriction on his work. One thousand and sixty-eight written complaints came from individuals, all of whom had to be told that complaints could only be transmitted through members of Parliament. Cases referred by members themselves numbered 928 of which rather more than half (576) were invalid because they were found to be outside the Parliamentary Commissioner's jurisdiction. In his quadruple capacity as Parliamentary Commissioner and

three Health Service Commissioners he was able to investigate a small number of complaints which fell under two Acts, and save time by issuing a single report. In other cases the Parliamentary Commissioner has attempted to reduce the delays inherent in the present system by liaison with other statutory bodies so that a complainant does not find himself referred back and forth between his member and similar Commissioners concerned with maladministration.

One complaint involved both the actions of a central government department and also the actions of a local authority. Legislation required a report by the Commissioners for Local Administration in Wales as well as a report by the Parliamentary Commissioner. The complainant was seen by officers from both bodies acting jointly, and while separate reports had still to be issued by each Commissioner, there was at least a joint agreement on the facts.

There are now separate Commissions for Local Administration in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, all four presumably busy with complaints and, hopefully, in close and constant liaison with each other and with the Parliamentary Commissioner in London over questions of jurisdiction and of fact.

These are some of the parts of an elaborate maze covering many separate areas of administration. There could be streamlining, in the White Paper's own words, by creating a wide-ranging Ombudsman system in place of the narrow corridor between Parliament and the people uneasily occupied by the Parliamentary Commissioner. The total cost need not be higher than the fragmented machinery of today, but the frustrations of the present diverse agencies for dealing with complaints could be largely removed.

Meanwhile Members of Parliament have to concern themselves

more and more with work which in most cases ought to be within the responsibility of and handled directly by an unfettered Ombudsman. With the rapid spread of higher education since 1945, the educated electorate whose impact on Parliament has not yet been fully appreciated there. In the whole year of 1947, there was a total of only 129 questions to ministers on various aspects of administration, while in the long parliamentary session of 1975-76 there were more than 40,500. To be in order, each question must involve the responsibility of a minister. This is an immense burden on Parliament, involving huge amounts of time, paper and strain on government departments.

former civil servant". Having cast a stop to the direction of Sir Idwal Pugh, the select committee which reviewed his work hastened to explain that there was no intention of hitting him—there was "no criticism of his personal qualities or suitability"; apart, presumably, from the fact that he had recently retired from a top post in the Civil Service. The Ontario Ombudsman was chosen from outside the government service. He is Mr Arthur Maloney, QC, one of Canada's most notable criminal lawyers.

The Ontario Ombudsman has a duty to report annually to the legislature but is otherwise unhampered in his powers either to investigate complaints or to institute an inquiry himself. The response to his appointment was demonstrated by the opening of 6,000 files of citizens' complaints against maladministration in the first year, and underlined by some members' dismay at the comparison with their own less alert sponsorship of grievances.

Although the financial cost has not been negligible, the social profit has been impressive. In Toronto, a city of 2,750,000, the languages spoken in the offices of the Ombudsman by his interviewing staff include Chinese, Czech, Dutch, Estonian, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Filipino, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian, Spanish, Ukrainian and Yiddish. The suspicions and grievances capable of being dealt with in the many tongues of the complainants are now taken by action or assuaged by explanation instead of being left to fester until some dissident group weaves these pent-up complaints into a pattern of conspiracy and street rioting.

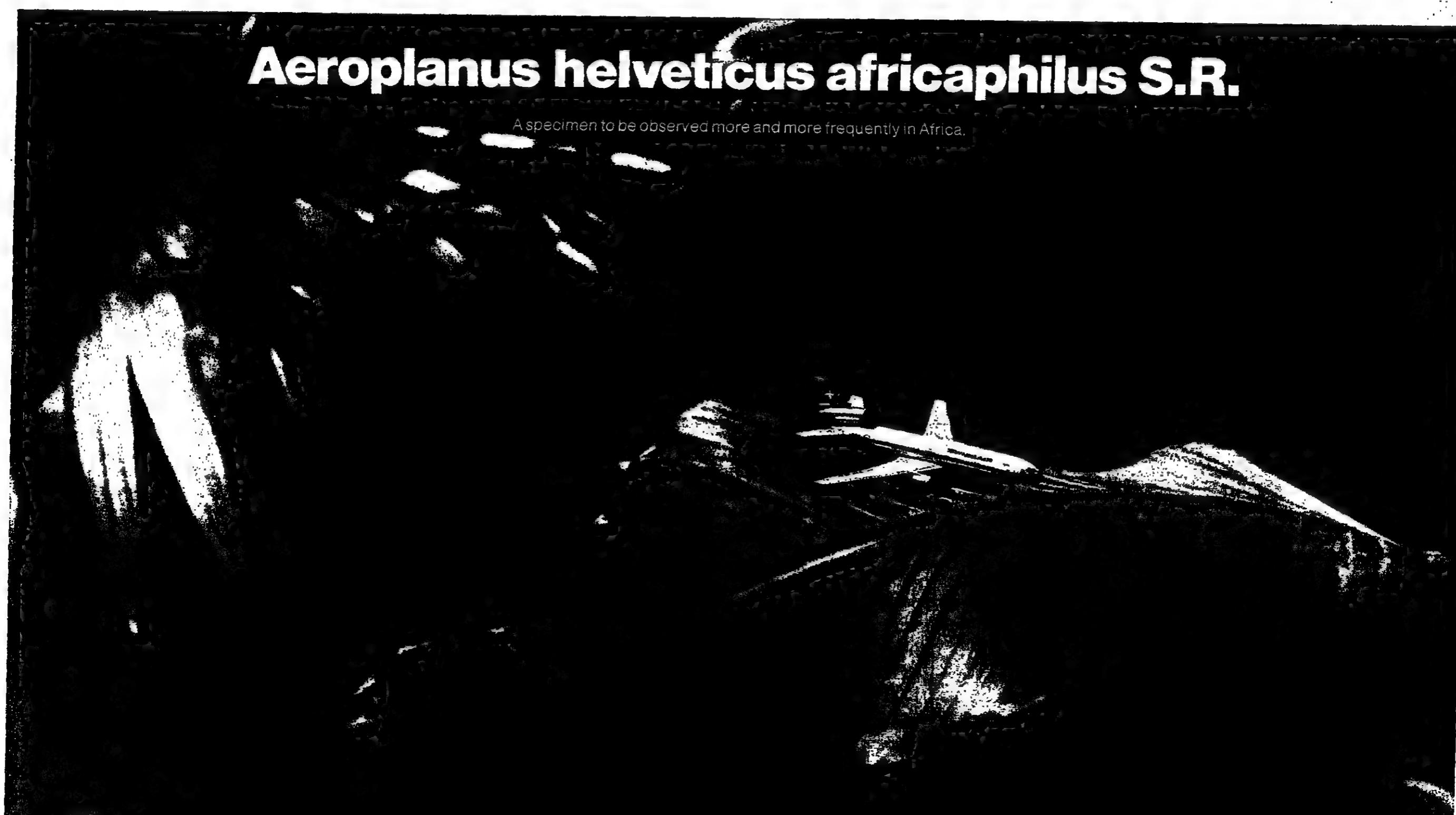
Complainants, however humble, are invited to bring their grievances direct to the office of the Ombudsman. Premises which are easy to find opposite Toronto's City Hall in the Thomson building have been purposely chosen in order to avoid any suggestion of government supervision. The informal atmosphere of the waiting room creates an unofficial setting in which complainants are encouraged to speak their minds and to feel that the Ombudsman is on their side from the start, and not just another Commissioner frowning for the government.

There is no Ombudsman service of this character on magnitude in London, and its merits ought to be studied before the law provides new, expensive, but still inadequate Ombudsman services for Scotland and Wales.

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Sir Barnett Cocks was Clerk of the House of Commons, 1962-73.

Aeroplanus helveticus africaphilus S.R.

A specimen to be observed more and more frequently in Africa.



The *Aeroplanus helveticus africaphilus* S.R., which even the layman can easily recognize by its silvery wings and handsome red stripes, has been little noticed hitherto in classical entomology. Quite unjustly. The Africaphilus S.R. (the letters denote its discoverer, Swissair)

is definitely a useful insect species of which include the DC-8, DC-9, and DC-10.

Considering its low emission level and quiet movements, it is probably the most useful insect ever to land in Africa. This is apparent particularly from the

infallible instinct with which it flies tirelessly from Switzerland to Abidjan, Accra, Algiers, Cairo, Casablanca, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Douala, Johannesburg, Khartoum, Kinshasa, Lagos, Libreville, Monrovia, Nairobi, Oran, Tripoli, and Tunis.

Your travel agent or Swissair will gladly give you further information. For instance about the best connecting flights from London and Manchester via Switzerland.

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Lloyds

Road transport
after
the Budget,
page 21

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

MLR is cut again and Treasury hints at floating rate bond issue soon

By John Whitmore

What is proving a highly-active week in financial markets yesterday brought a one-point cut to 9% per cent in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate—the announcement of new £800m gilt-edged stock and an indication that the authorities may soon experiment with a floating rate government bond.

The Bank of England's move in setting its minimum lending rate on a Thursday rather than after Friday's Treasury bill tender was prompted for two main reasons.

The first was that with money market rates falling rapidly it wanted to give the financial community a clear indication of its post-Budget thinking ahead of this week's Treasury bill tender.

The second reason was that it needed to set the scene for the later announcement of the £800m gilt-edged stock. This too would normally not have been announced until this afternoon, but on this occasion arrangements had to be moved forward 24 hours to allow adequate time for the final bids to be submitted and dealings to start before the Easter holiday.

In cutting MLR by one point the Bank made it clear that it was bringing the rate into line with recent market movements

and did not want the general level of interest rates to move much lower for the time being. On the basis of last night's trading, yesterday's Treasury bill tender took place to be in line with the new rate for MLR.

If this proves to be the case, then the market-related formula for setting MLR will be automatically reactivated. Were the bill rate to drop still further, however, the market-related formula would remain in suspension.

The Bank's wish to see a degree of moderation maintained in the pace of decline in interest rates flows largely from its view that there are still a number of potential obstacles to be overcome, not least the negotiations for the next phase of incomes policy.

On the other hand it is clearly pleased at the favourable response to the Budget and is happy to see interest rates somewhat lower to try and curb the embarrassingly-large inflows of foreign money into the country.

Meanwhile, with sentiment in the gilt market remaining favourable, the authorities are continuing their policy of launching partly-paid gilt-edged stock.

These are specifically designed to avoid depressing the monetary aggregates too much

in the short term, yet committing investors to providing the funds for the Government's new financial year.

The new stock, which follows last week's offer of £800m of partly-paid Exchequer 12½ per cent stock, 1992, is of much shorter maturity. It is Exchequer 9½ per cent, 1980, at an issue price of 297 per cent offers a flat yield of 9.54 per cent and a gross redemption yield of 9.99 per cent.

Only 15 per cent is payable on application—lists close next Wednesday—with calls for 25 per cent falling on May 12 and 57 per cent on July 4.

It was also made clear yesterday in the parliamentary reply that the Treasury had decided in principle to experiment with a floating rate government bond if conditions seem appropriate.

The right conditions are generally when investors feel that interest rates are likely to rise and fixed interest stocks are, therefore, unattractive.

It will, however, be a number of weeks before the necessary technical details have been agreed with the Stock Exchange and the statement can be laid before Parliament to extend the investment powers of trustee bodies and building societies, whom the authorities believe would be interested.

Financial Editor, page 21

Curbs on Far East clothing imports

By Peter Hill

New curbs on imports of low cost clothing from the Far East were announced by the Government yesterday. This move by the Department of Trade is the latest in a series of measures taken to protect the United Kingdom textile industry from imports being made into the domestic market by low cost foreign suppliers of clothing.

This year, imports of men's and boys' jackets and blazers from Macao are to be limited to 400,000 pieces, while imports of men's, girls' and infants' blouses and shirt blouses from the same source will be limited to one million pieces.

The restriction follows a sharp rise in both products over the past two years. Imports of men's jackets and blazers from Macao rose from 95,000 pieces in 1975 to 382,000 last year, while the women's wear imports increased from 155,000 to 96,000 over the same period.

News of the announcement came as the British textile industry reaffirmed its call for a fundamental renegotiation of

the Gatt Multi Fibre Arrangement.

The talks on the future of the MFA, due to begin later this month (April) in Geneva with the EEC still divided, although there are signs that the United States may be prepared to lend its support to the majority of Community countries who want a revision of its terms.

Dr Brian Smith, the new president of the British Textile Confederation, said yesterday that more jobs would be in jeopardy unless there were revisions.

Over the past two years 100,000 jobs disappeared. If present trends in imports continued, the European textile industry could lose 1.6 million jobs by 1985.

Dr Smith told the BTC's annual luncheon in London that it was important that the United Kingdom achieved a balanced growth in imports and that import market shares should be related to a reasonable base period.

Business Diary, page 21

TASS wins inter-union status battle

By Derek Harris

The TUC has come down on the side of the Technical

Administrative and Supervisory Section (TASS) of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in the first round of an inter-union battle over recruitment of professional engineers.

It is being seen as a serious setback for the Electrical Power Engineers' Association (EPEA) which has been pursuing an expansionist policy for new members.

But Mr John Lyons, EPEA's general secretary, last night made clear that it would not deflect association policy to widen its membership from its present base of the electricity supply industry into the private sector.

He said: "It is a disappointing decision. But we always knew we could not expect to win every case. There are many more cases still to come."

The decision by a TUC disputes committee concerned recruitment of professional engineers at the GEC Rector Equipment complex at Wheatstone, Leicestershire. Mr Ken Gill, TASS's general secretary, had invoked the Bridlington agreement, covering non-pan-governmental recruitment of members between TUC-affiliated unions.

TASS accused EPEA of creating exceptional difficulties for furthering TASS recruiting. This the committee upheld and EPEA has been asked to cease recruitment.

It has also been asked to advise its Whistone members to already recruited to transfer to TASS. But even if it does this TASS will not necessarily gain the engineers' membership because, unlike EPEA, TASS has not been recommended as a suitable trade union by the engineers' own professional body, the Council of Engineering Institutions.

Other sites where the two unions are clashing includes three Lucas Aerospace factories at Birmingham. Another possible focus is a GEC factory at Stafford.

Inquiry backed: "Very strong" support for a full Government inquiry into the engineering profession came last night from the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS). The TUC has already called for an inquiry, and a decision is expected soon from Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, on whether

to hold it.

British Steel acquires stockholder

British Steel Corporation has further increased its stake in stockholding with the acquisition of David Bennie and Sons, and its subsidiary, Bennie Steel Sheet.

A Scottish company, it employs 50 people and has a turnover of £2m. It is a flat rolled steel sheet processor and stockholder. The price paid was not disclosed.

The corporation said Bennie Steel should become part of Lye Smelters Services. The flat rolled products division of British Steel Service Centres, the BSC's stockholding group.

The corporation's growing involvement on the stockholding side has been a source of anxiety among other stockholders, although its share of the total United Kingdom market will be limited to 10 per cent with the approval of the Government and the EEC.

BSC established its service centre operation in 1974 and has since made a number of acquisitions.

NEDO chief urges Parliament link

By Malcolm Brown

A call for a formal link between Parliament and the National Economic Development Office was made last night by Sir Ronald McDonald, director general of the NEDO.

Sir Ronald, expressing a view which is now gaining support, particularly among industrialists, told a Bow Group meeting in London that what he would most like to see would be a decision by the appropriate elected committee to maintain a continuing watch over the activities of NEDO and its associated tripartite groups.

"This would presumably involve the committee in taking evidence periodically from the

director general and senior

Ronald said:

"It would increase understanding among MPs of the practical problems involved in achieving industrial renewal. It would remove the criticism that, under the present system, the arrangements for tripartite consideration of industry's problems bypass Parliament."

"I understand their concern and I am most anxious that work done by and under the aegis of NEDO should be done openly and should be clearly seen to be within the framework of our normal democratic processes."

A link with Parliament would be welcome to the people from industry who gave their time to NEDO,

"applied over a period covering the normal lifetime of at least three Parliaments" to review.

Many people had not yet understood the true extent of the United Kingdom's loss of competitiveness over the last 20 years.

"It is not simply that we have fallen behind the most successful industrial countries in performance; the speed of our decline is now greater than the question will soon arise whether we can ever hope to rejoin their league at all. Certainly we shall not do so unless we apply our minds to the problem much more systematically and continuously than we have done so far."

Earlier Sir Ronald had given

a warning that the industrial decline had gone a long way in the United Kingdom and would take unmitigated effort

to reverse.

More than 13,000 employees yesterday took part in a ballot which will determine whether IBM United Kingdom can withstand the storm of equalitarian legislation and remain a bastion of non-unionised labour within Britain.

The ballot is the outcome of a battle which has been waged between IBM's management and four trade unions since the middle of last year when the Association of Scientific, Managerial and Technical Staffs (AMTS) and the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union-Electrical Engineering Staffs Association (EETPU-EESA) have also claimed an interest in being represented within the company.

All made their pitch under the provisions of the Employment Protection Act which allows a union seeking to become the bargaining agent for a company's employees to apply to the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service for the right.

Yesterday's ballot was organised by ACAS. It formulated a five point questionnaire after much hard bargaining between representatives of the company and the unions.

The questions have caused acrimony between the unions and the company. Fundamentally, the question centres on whether or not IBM employees would be better served in terms of salary and conditions if they had a union to represent them.

The unions maintain that the employees would not enjoy their standard of remuneration and conditions unless the company had been forced to recognise yardsticks established at companies where unions were active.

The company, however, maintains that its pay scales and conditions are "significantly higher" than most unionised companies in the United Kingdom.

In addition, the company believes that its record of no strikes, no lay-offs and full employment during its 25 years in Britain shows no need for such representation.

For historical reasons, the company's employees at Greenock are more likely to vote for trade union representation than their colleagues in other parts of the organisation.

It is not yet clear whether the Greenock result will be considered separately or not. Yesterday a spokesman for ACAS said it would take "some weeks" to study the results of the questionnaires, and only then would the service make its recommendations.

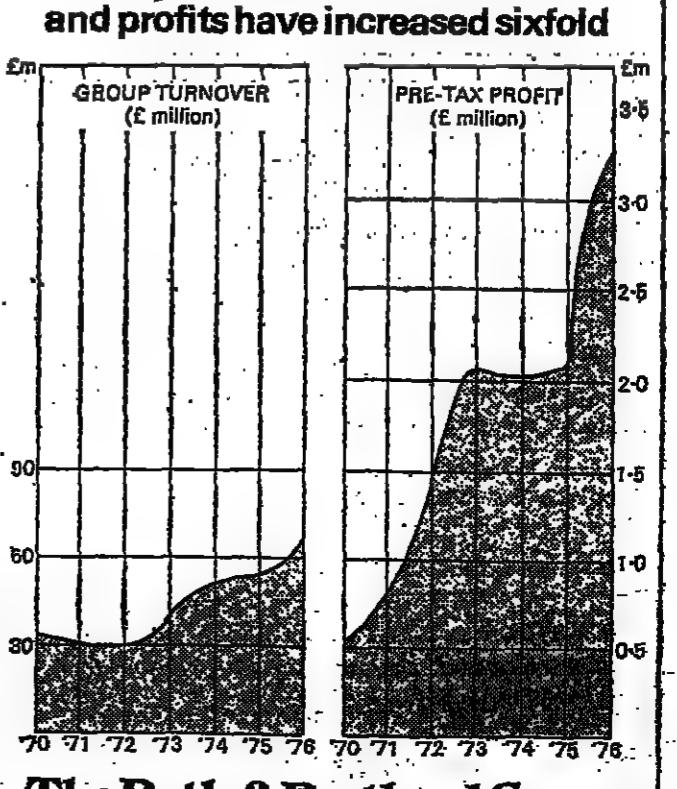
Tim Jones

Stock Exchange given go ahead to Talisman

The Stock Exchange has been given the go-ahead by its members to develop Talisman, the new computerised settlement system. As expected a proxy vote showed that members were three-to-one in favour of the scheme. Actual votes cast were 2,315 in favour: 637 against.

Record Profits 56% up on last year

Last 6 years turnover has doubled and profits have increased sixfold



The Bath & Portland Group

Copies of the Report and Accounts for 1975/76 can be obtained from the Secretary, The Bath & Portland Group Limited, 20 Newgate Street, Bath, BA1 5LC.

The Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of Lloyds Bank Limited was held on 31 March 1977 at the Head Office, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

Sir Eric Faulkner, MBE, the Chairman, presided.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting and Mr J.B. Sewell read the report of the auditors. The Report of the Directors and the Accounts were received and adopted.

The Chairman paid tribute to the services of Mr W.F. Cartwright LLD, DL, Mr E.O.L. Vaughan and Mr C.R. Vincent who did not seek re-election. The other retiring directors were re-elected.

A special resolution as set out in the notice of meeting was passed to alter the Articles of Association of the Company.



Lloyds Bank

How the markets moved

Rises

APV Holdings 30s to 370p
Galliford 30s to 270p
Howard Mach 10p to 125p
Latham J

Monk A 3p to 60p
Rex A 80s to 50p
Spirax Sarco 8p to 150p

Metal Box 12p to 290p
Portsmouth Farms 12p to 316p
Bank Org 60s to 180s

Slater Walker 6p to 81p
Textured Jersey 2p to 16p

Thorn Electric 8p to 400p
Telewest 1p to 400p
Unilever 4p to 468p

Warne Wright 4p to 38p

Equities fell on profit-taking.

Gold edge mixed.

Sterling closed 5 points down at \$1.7201. The effective exchange rate was unchanged at 61.8.

SDR-S was 1.12916 on Thursday while SDR-L was 0.679381.

Commodities: Reuter's index was at 1,731.2 (previous, 1,732.9).

Rates fell on profit-taking.

Dollar premium 113.50 per cent (effective rate 40.417 per cent).

Gold was \$1 an ounce down at \$148.

Interest rates were broadly mixed.

Gold edge mixed.

Interest rates were broadly mixed.

American oil affiliates expected to boost investment in UK by 19pc

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, March 31

British-based affiliates of American companies plan to increase their capital expenditures by about 10 per cent.

This year to \$4,400m, against an estimated 8 per cent rise totalling \$4,000m in 1976.

According to a Department of Commerce survey conducted in December capital spending by majority-owned foreign affiliates of United States corporations will be stepped up 12 per cent to \$28,900m, compared with a decline of 4 per cent last year.

Oil company affiliates are again likely to be the largest capital spenders abroad, and much of their United Kingdom expenditure will be by these concerns.

The survey shows that oil companies intend to raise capital spending by 19 per cent to

11,100m, after a 2 per cent gain last year. The Commerce Department said the higher spending is largely accounted for by companies involved in oil production in the Middle East and the North Sea.

A dramatic change in investment planning seems to have taken place among United States affiliates in Britain in the second half of 1976. This possibly indicates increasing confidence in the British economic outlook on the part of their leading executives, as well as some substantial mis-calculations on their part on the speed with which they could realize their capital spending intentions.

Planned expenditure in the United Kingdom by these companies will increase by 10 per cent. However, a Department survey conducted last June showed that these same companies expected their 1977 capital outlays to drop 3 per

cent below the 1976 level. The June survey also put planned 1976 capital outlays as rising by 16 per cent, while the December survey showed that this figure had actually been halved.

The 10 per cent planned increase compares with actual percentage rises by United States affiliates in Britain of 57 per cent in 1975; 14 per cent in 1974 and 43 per cent in 1973.

The December survey also indicated that United States oil affiliates primarily involved in distribution and refining intend to boost capital expenditures in France and Japan, while cutting spending levels in West Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Bahamas.

Non-oil manufacturing foreign affiliates plan to raise their spending by 11 per cent to \$11,100m, after recording a 5 per cent fall in 1976 compared to the 1975 level.

Banks lending less to developing nations

By David Blake
Economic Correspondent

As negotiations proceed for some new source of funds for the International Monetary Fund, commercial bank lending to developing countries has fallen sharply. According to preliminary estimates by Morgan Guaranty Trust of New York in its latest issue of the authoritative *World Financial Markets*, total non-Opec-developing country borrowing in the first quarter was down by \$2,100m to \$2,500m.

Some of the drop was explained by an improving balance of payments position caused by higher commodity prices. It is estimated that during the current year the balance of payments deficits of 12 countries which have been the biggest borrowers will drop from \$2,000m to \$1,100m.

That there is also a definite indication of a switch in the lending policies of banks which is beginning to force the developing countries to look more to official sources of finance, and less towards the commercial markets.

There has been considerable concern, particularly in the United States, about the growing role of developing country debts in bank balance sheets.

It seems to be generally accepted that commercial bank lending will have to play a dominant role in the coming year in financing the problems caused to countries by the deficits which are associated with the surpluses of oil countries and some western nations such as Germany.

However, bankers are clearly trying to bring in the IMF to a more positive role, if only because it has the power to enforce conditions on countries.

Thus, the IMF seal of approval can be the first step towards making that country a good risk in the Euromarkets.

OECD says corporation broke code

Paris, March 31.—A number of multinational corporations are accused of flouting the code of conduct guidelines agreed last June by members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The accusations were put forward by representatives of the Trade Union Advisory Committee of the OECD at a meeting of the organization's committee for international investment and multinational enterprises.

Although TUAC presented a list of 15 "cases of violation" of the guidelines, what is said to be a test case involves a Belgian unit of Badger, an American company, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Raytheon Corporation.

Badger-Belgium, set up in Antwerp in 1965, closed down in January and dismissed its 250 workers without severance pay, required under Belgian law, Mr Henry Bernard, TUAC secretary-general, said.

He added that the parent company refused to pay.

The Belgian government had taken up the matter with Washington. "The United States administration has shown plenty of goodwill, but it is subjected to strong pressure by multinational corporations", he said.

The TUAC has also called for the setting up of inter-ministerial administrative units "especially responsible for surveillance of the application of the guidelines".

Japan car makers turn to Europe

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Japanese car makers could be exporting 1 million cars to Western Europe within five years. Marketing is expected to be particularly aggressive in West Germany, France and Italy where Japanese import penetration is now very small.

According to a study published yesterday, the Japanese are likely to concentrate their future sales efforts in Western Europe because of limited growth prospects in the north American market which has recently taken about 45 per cent of all Japanese passenger car exports.

Babcock wins £70m Saudi water contract

Ames Croft Babcock, a company in the Babcock and Wilcox Group's water engineering division, has won a £70m contract for the turnkey building of a major treatment plant to supply drinking water to Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia.

The company thinks it is the highest value contract yet awarded for such a project, and the reverse osmosis plant would be one of the world's largest.

The order covers the entire civil, mechanical and electrical work, including a diesel power generating station, and is expected to take over two years to build.

Italy's payments gap widens to £1,586m

From Patricia Clough
Rome, March 31

Italy had a balance of payments deficit of 2,380,000 lire (about £1,586m) for 1976 calculated on the basis of mandatory deposit and the recently-abolished tax on foreign exchange purchases.

The Senate today approved the government's decree law to reduce increases in labour costs, with the changes made under yesterday's compromise with the unions. The compromise cleared the way for a \$530m IMF loan.

The decree now goes to the Chamber of Deputies for approval before its expiry date on April 8.

Sigor Giulio Andreotti, the Prime Minister, told the Senate last night before the approval that without credit "we would plunge into collective bankruptcy".

It was unthinkable that Italy should go further into debt to meet its current needs, he explained. Credit was needed to permit Italy to pay its international debts which "have gone over the danger line".—Reuters.

Progress on participation at Ferranti

By Malcolm Brown

The trade unions are making some progress towards a participation agreement with Ferranti, the state-controlled electrical and electronic group.

Following months of negotiations the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has told its members that the company has conceded that the agreement should cover several key areas.

These include: investment, including total expenditure, timing and location; imports and exports; company pricing policy; and government grants and loans.

Ferranti has been a prime candidate for a participation agreement since the Government rescued the group two years ago from a major cash crisis. The National Enterprise Board now holds 50 per cent of the voting shares and 100 per cent of the non-voting.

The AUEW says that the latest replies from Ferranti indicate that agreement is possible for a less management-orientated pact than had been discussed.

In brief

Nube petition calls for Lloyds profit-sharing

Lucas anger at Leyland parts move

By Clifford Webb

A delegation of shop stewards representing 30,000 workers employed in Lucas motor component factories has protested to the West Midlands County Council over British Leyland plans to manufacture more of its own parts through the expansion and modernization of its SU-Butec group of component companies.

The Lucas men are particularly annoyed because they believe the state-controlled car group is unfairly using taxpayers' money to threaten their jobs. So concerned is Leyland about the opposition that Mr Ron Hancock, managing director of SU-Butec, has met county council officials to explain his plans in detail.

A full report of both sets of talks will be considered at next Monday's meeting of the county's employment, commerce and industry committee.

One of the issues raised by shop stewards was a proposed deal with the American-French Motorola group. Mr Hancock wants to manufacture a Motorola alternator under licence for use in Leyland commercial vehicles and some specialist cars. A Motorola alternator is already fitted to the 12-cylinder Jaguar XJS—Leyland's flagship.

In an attempt to counter the Motorola deal, Lucas has offered a similar licensing arrangement for one of its alternators.

It is understood that Mr Hancock has told the county council that unless the seven companies who make up SU-Butec are modernized quickly they will become progressively uneconomic to operate and some would be in danger of closure.

He said suppliers who met Leyland's requirements on quality and price had nothing to fear, but the few who consistently fell short would be replaced by alternative sources, including in-house manufacture by Leyland.

Humberse yards get Indonesian orders

Export orders for tugs and barges, part of a £4m contract for Indonesia, have been won by United Kingdom shipbuilding companies. The Hull-based Yorkshire Dry Dock Co. is to build 10 bunkering barges for a swamp reclamation project in Indonesia which will provide the yard with work for a year.

The cold weather also pushed power sales to record levels. Electricity supplied during January was 15 per cent more than in 1976 and power stations had a peak load of 49,100 megawatts. During the three months November to January electricity supplies were 8.5 per cent higher than last year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The most effective use of gas and electricity and a fallacious view

From Mr Terry Goddard

Sir, Peter Reynolds (March 29) can be assured the most effective use of energy is of concern to the proponents of electricity. We share also his belief in the importance of the truth.

Unfortunately his argument against the use of electricity for domestic heating rests on a fallacy: hardly any power stations burn natural gas.

Almost all burn the lowest grade of coal which would otherwise be building into huge tips. Natural gas is used only by the few stations with the additional facilities to burn it when demand for natural gas is slack.

Over 80 per cent of our

mainly from materials which (a) have no other real commercial outlet and (b) would not be converted into energy at all if not used in power stations. Some 70 per cent of United Kingdom's electricity is produced from low-grade coal, 10 per cent from oil residue, 12 per cent from nuclear fuels and the rest from hydro.

That the coal has no alternative outlet may be witnessed by the government, last week, giving the South of Scotland Electricity Board a subsidy of £35m to encourage them to use this poor coal. Mr Reynolds should ask his local miners where they would be without the electricity supply industry. Incidentally, there is a very useful by-product of burning the various lightweight aggregates and insulating building blocks that are made from the ash.

Perhaps the Inland Revenue

may care to give a ruling.

We should use a valuable material like gas in boilers at all.

And, most certainly, whether we should allow misleading claims about its relative efficiency to cause a decline of our electrical power industry, particularly bearing in mind the admitted short finite life of these gas supplies. There is no question at all but that, in 10 or 15 years, a very substantial new capital programme will be required to convert back from gas to electricity and if our power industry is run down now, we will be faced with the crippling costs of importing, at a time when the whole world will be competing for the same service.

No one is suggesting that gas be burnt in power stations.

The choice, therefore, is not, as Mr Reynolds suggests, between burning gas directly at power stations or to produce electricity. As has been stated in your columns many, many times, electricity in this country is produced

Tax and the building industry

From Mr C. A. Fairbairn

Sir, Following Mr A. Lewis's comments on the problems in the constructional industry created by the advent of the new tax certification system (March 28) may I suggest the following?

As deduction of tax by the contractor absolves the subcontractor of further responsibility for the remission of that sum to the Inland Revenue, then bona fide evidence of that deduction (Form SC50) submitted in lieu of payment made to the Inland Revenue in respect of PAYE and NIC remittances should prove satisfactory to the inspectorate.

This was our contingency plan had we not received our certificates by the due date, and should enable those not so fortunate to escape the disastrous consequences of having to finance a double taxation situation.

Perhaps the Inland Revenue

may care to give a ruling.

We should use a valuable material like gas in boilers at all.

And, most certainly, whether we should allow misleading claims about its relative efficiency to cause a decline of our electrical power industry, particularly bearing in mind the admitted short finite life of these gas supplies. There is no question at all but that, in 10 or 15 years, a very substantial new capital programme will be required to convert back from gas to electricity and if our power industry is run down now, we will be faced with the crippling costs of importing, at a time when the whole world will be competing for the same service.

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The choice, therefore,

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Here comes the floating bond

Around the turn of the year the authorities were said to have decided, quite wisely in fact, not to give a floating rate Government bond the first place in the stock conditions of falling interest rates. There is little doubt that investors awaiting the capital gains of the developing bull market in gilts would have given it the cold shoulder. Now that conditions look as if they could well be rather different later this year, the bonds seem assured of at least a trial outing before too long.

The main idea of the floating rate bond is, of course, to allow the authorities to come to sell debt securities when investors feel that the underlying trend in interest rates may be upwards. In other words, to help avoid the disastrous stalemate with the gilt market into which the authorities led them selves last summer.

The added advantage from the authorities' viewpoint, however, is that a floating rate bond should not only allow them to fund smoothly but also to sell stock heavily at what should, theoretically, be the moment when the market has most surplus funds available—that is when the excess of liquidity in the system has reached its maximum and consequently driven interest rates to their minimum.

Not, in fact, that these conditions will necessarily pertain this spring following the heavy advance funding commitments implied by the two partly paid government stocks.

BP

Improving cash flow

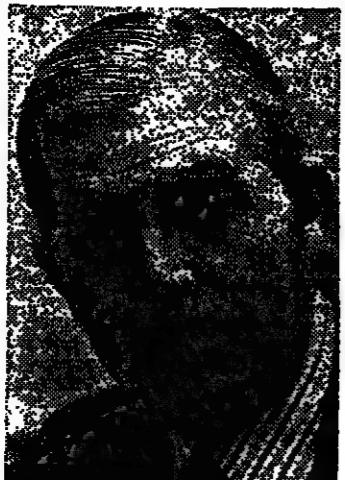
After two lean years, for the balance sheet as well as the profit and loss account, British Petroleum is heading for a much sounder underlying position. Net debt climbed from a third in 55 per cent of shareholders' funds last year with the continuing need to fund Alaska and the North Sea.

But that should mark the end of BP's deteriorating gearing and with cash flow building up well from Forties' intermittent fears of a large-scale funding operation should disappear.

Reserves were only a little higher last year though depreciation was a third up at £265m and cash flow further benefited from BP's front-end loading petroleum revenue tax payments. Moreover, the 50 per cent rise in deferred tax to £18m will also have helped after rising working capital.

Cash generation will benefit enormously with Forties now in peak production while next year will see the first benefit from Alaska, where apparently pipeline costs are still within budget. For the rest the two-tier spot price structure, depressed product margins and refinery utilization that is unlikely to get over 1976's 70 per cent level will give little leeway for any quantum jump in net income this year, particularly as there will not be 1976's £71m advance corporation tax write-back nor very much in the way of currency gains to count on this year.

Accounts: 1976 (1975)
Capitalization £3,166m
Net assets £2,855m (£2,676m)
Turnover £1,555 (£875m)
Net income £179.8m (£144.9m)
Earnings per share 46.4p (37.5p)
Dividend gross 4.19p (3.61p)



Mr Bernard Scott, chairman of Lucas: profits improvement to be maintained.

Lucas' profits rose from £4.5m to £12m or 25 per cent of trading profits.

Moving into the present year Bowater has another round of price increases under its belt in North America and is evidently on the firm upward.

Bowater's profit statement for 1976 shows a p/e ratio of 9.3 and yield of 6.2 per cent with the shares at 201p, up 1p against a dull market yesterday.

Final: 1976 (1975)

Capitalization £49m

Sales £1,548m (£1,107m)

Pre-tax profits £78.3m (£52.9m)

Earnings per share 21.7p (15.3p)

Dividend gross 12.5p (10.9p)

Lucas

Diesel hopes

Lucas owns its 65 per cent first half profits increase to rising levels of 1 per cent improvement in trading margins and an almost halving of interest charge as a result of last year's right issue.

Profits cannot possibly go on rising at this rate, but there are no signs yet that the group is running out of steam.

Still that didn't stop investors for demonstrating a certain amount of enthusiasm in a lackluster market, and the shares gained 1p to 45p, at which level the yield 9.2 per cent and the p/e ratio just under 9. The question now is how much further they have to go.

Last year confectionery volume in the United Kingdom showed some recovery; this year higher prices could send the market the other way. Last year drinks did moderately well; this year there's no reason to expect them to do better. But there is room for recovery in Canada, further improvement in America, and a better performance in South Africa, though last year's currency gains (some strong share of £2m) are unlikely to be repeated.

Meanwhile, the interest charges are almost certain to rise on an accelerated programme of capital spending and higher working capital requirements. So the outlook is for a modest improvement, nothing more, and unless there are outside factors—like lower coke prices—to put a smile on the shares, they are likely to mark time for a few months.

Final: 1976 (1975)

Capitalization £167m

Sales £787m (£565m)

Pre-tax profits £46.4m (£36.6m)

Dividend gross 3.26p (2.35p)

Bowater

Papermaking rebounds

Bowater's first-half results pointed to a strong second half performance. In the event it has come through better than expected: profits rising to close to three-quarters compared to a gain of less than a quarter in the first period.

After the earlier strike disruptions, the big North American paper operations have since been working at full stretch, although even so the second half did not quite manage to make good in dollar terms the downturn in the first half. North American profits of £26.3m compare to £23.4m the previous year, but this includes a 2.4% of exchange rate profits.

The real momentum has come from the United Kingdom, where the paper operations rallied from their dismal first half to make good in the second half demand to supplement the excellent showing of packaging and corrugated trading. So despite bigger losses from building products, furniture and carpets, up from £2.9m to £4.7m, United

Kingdom profits rose from £4.5m to £12m or 25 per cent of trading profits.

Moving into the present year Bowater has another round of price increases under its belt in North America and is evidently on the firm upward.

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Earnings per share 21.7p (15.3p)

Dividend gross 12.5p (10.9p)

Cadbury Schweppes

Second half sparkle

Cadbury Schweppes made up in the second half of 1976 for some of the disappointment which attended its first half performance, producing pre-tax profits for the year which, at £46.4m, were well ahead of most expec-

tations. The improvement was a third up at £265m and cash flow building up well from Forties' intermittent fears of a large-scale funding operation should disappear.

Reserves were only a little higher last year though depreciation was a third up at £265m and cash flow further benefited from BP's front-end loading petroleum revenue tax payments. Moreover, the 50 per cent rise in deferred tax to £18m will also have helped after rising working capital.

Cash generation will benefit enormously with Forties now in peak production while next year will see the first benefit from Alaska, where apparently pipeline costs are still within budget. For the rest the two-tier spot price structure, depressed product margins and refinery utilization that is unlikely to get over 1976's 70 per cent level will give little leeway for any quantum jump in net income this year, particularly as there will not be 1976's £71m advance corporation tax write-back nor very much in the way of currency gains to count on this year.

Accounts: 1976 (1975)

Capitalization £3,166m

Net assets £2,855m (£2,676m)

Turnover £1,555 (£875m)

Net income £179.8m (£144.9m)

Earnings per share 46.4p (37.5p)

Dividend gross 4.19p (3.61p)

LEGAL NOTICES

In the Matter of the Companies Act 1948 and in the Matter of the Securities Limited in Liquidation.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 245 of the Companies Act 1948 that a GENERAL MEETING of the MEMBERS of the above-named Company will be held at the Alberton Rooms, Great Eastern Hotel, London, E.C.2, on the 26th day of April, 1977, at 12.15 p.m. for the purpose of a MEETING of the CREDITORS for the purposes of receiving an account of the Liquidator's acts in the winding-up to date.

Provided for both meetings must be a quorum of 100 members or more, later than 4.00 p.m. on Friday, 28th April, 1977, and closed this 12th day of April, 1977.

P. F. M. SKEWELL
Liquidator.

Abacus House,
Gresham Street,
London EC2V 8AH.

NOTES:

- 1. The 5.24 per cent Redeemable Preference Shares of £1 each, the 7.7 per cent Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of £1 each, the Ordinary Deferred Ordinary Shares of 25 pence each and the Management Shares confer upon the respective holders certain rights similar to those of members.
- 2. The holders of partly paid Deferred Ordinary Shares and partly paid 7.7 per cent Cumulative Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares are not entitled to vote at the meeting of members.
- 3. The holders of the shares mentioned above, where a poll is demanded upon a number of votes equal to 10 per cent of the votes of the holders of the issued share capital of the Company, including the Management Shares, have the right to call a meeting of the Management Shares confers on the holder a voteable proportion.
- 4. A member entitled to attend the meeting of members is entitled to appoint his proxy to attend the meeting if he is not present and is not a member of the Company.
- 5. Persons resident at Abacus House, Gresham Street, London, EC2V 8AH on Friday, 28th April, 1977.
- 6. Notice is also given for information only to the holders of the Stock 1952/2000 which were secured by the Loan Stock 1952/2000 who are entitled to attend either the meeting of members or the meeting of creditors.

No. 000629 of 1977
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
in the County of London in the Matter of ARNOLD O'REILLY
and the other Petitioners
That a MEETING of the
above-named Company was on the
17th day of January, 1977, held
in the High Court of Justice by
Justice Brightman at the Royal
WCA, Old Bailey, London, on the
23rd day of March, 1977, and
that the members of the said
Company directed the report of the
Petitioners to be read and the
Petition to be heard.

NOTICE is hereby given that
to appear on the hearing of the said
Petition must serve on a copy of
writing of his intention so to do
the name and address of the person, or of a firm,
and must be signed by the person
or firm, or by their solicitor
and, if signed by their solicitor,
must be sent by post in
envelopes addressed to the said
solicitor not later than four o'clock in
the afternoon of the Friday, the
23rd day of March, 1977.

In the Estate of REV. CANON ADAM FOX deceased.

Under the terms of the Act 1926
any person having a claim against
Rev. Canon Adam Fox, late of 4
Little Cloisters, Westminster Bridge,
London, S.W.1, deceased, on the
17th day of January, 1977, whose
name appears on the list of claimants
Acheson-Grey and Arthur Herbert
Brown, the Executors herein named,
is required to send proofs of claim
to the Executors, 2nd Floor, 100
Acheson-Grey, 22 College Hill, London,
EC2R 4AA, by the 26th day of June,
1977, after which date the
same shall be rejected.

JANSONS, Solicitors for the
said Executors, 2nd Floor, 100
Acheson-Grey, 22 College Hill, London,
EC2R 4AA.

IN THE ESTATE OF
LAWRENCE ALEXANDER DAVY
Deceased, by his executors, and any
person knowing him whereabouts
please communicate with Messrs
Frost, Davy & Co., Contractors
of 259 India Buildings Water Street
London, E.C.4, who will hold
for the execution of his will of the
late Lawrence Alexander Davy, dated
15th September 1966 and proved
on the 15th September 1966.

PETER BREARES, c/o H. M. L.
Shareholders, Cronical Service,
Cronical House, 100 Newgate Street,
Neston, Tel. 01-520 2200.

ALICE FOX, c/o Box 30043,
Mrs E. R. HOBSON, P.O. Box
MRS. MARY LARIONE, 33 Kid-
derminster, Shropshire, London,
B5 2EP.

In the Matter of the Companies
Act, 1948 as it stood and in the
matter of the Companies Act 1963
Limited in Liquidation.

Notice is hereby given pursuant
to Section 245 of the Companies
Act 1948 that a GENERAL MEET-
ING of the MEMBERS of the above-
named Company will be held at the
offices of W. H. Corlett & Sons
Chartered Accountants of Guildhall
House, 81-87 Gresham Street, London,
EC2V 7DS on Tuesday, the 11th
April, 1977 at 12 noon for the
purpose of a MEETING of the CREDI-
TORS for the purpose of receiving
an account of the Liquidator's acts
in the winding-up to date.

Dated this 21st day of March
1977.

J. D. NAYLOR
Liquidator.

In the matter of the Companies
Act, 1948 as it stood and in the
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Dated this 21st day of March
1977.

N. B. CHAMBERS
Liquidator.

Company No. 010207
Registered in England

In the Matter of the Companies
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Dated this 21st day of March
1977.

By Order of the Board,
W. H. CORLETT & Sons
Directors.

Company No. 040425
Registered in England

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FINANCIAL NEWS

'Rights' and good results boost
Spirax Eng

Bumped results and a rights issue from Spirax-Sarco Engineering pleased the market, which pushed the group's share up 8p to 196p.

The issue is to raise £2.4m in 150p in the proportion of one-for-five. It is underwritten by Schroder Wagstaffe while the brokers to the issue are Phillips & Drew.

The board of this fluid control equipment specialist plans to use the money to accelerate the group's expansion—especially in the UK, where the proposed investment programme for 1977 and 1978 is over £2.5m. The programme includes new factory and warehouse space in Cheltenham, and the purchase of new machine tools to boost production capacity. Initially, the net proceeds will be used to strengthen the group's short-term UK cash resources.

Helped on by a 58 per cent rise in second-half profits to 12.29p, the group ends 1976 with a 59 per cent leap to a record £4.25m before tax. This was achieved on turnover up 27 per cent to £25.7m. Earnings a share are 26.57p against 16.4p, while the dividend is raised from 8.68p to 9.53p gross.

Shareholders who take up the rights issue will not be eligible for this dividend, but the board intends to pay a total of 13.46p gross for the current year.

Commenting on the results, the board says that overseas trading was again the main spring, with overseas profits showing a 54 per cent rise over 1976 to make up nearly half of trading profits. Some of this was due to special factors such as the general fall in the value of sterling. Also, some of the newer overseas outlets made only a negligible contribution in 1975, but have made a "proper" contribution to profits in 1976.

Orders received so far this year have been satisfactory throughout the world, while demand adjusted for inflation is running ahead of the same period last year. Growth is expected to continue this year.

ALLIED TEXTILE COS

Sales of business of Ladyship Wools, Halifax, to Eddie Bernat had knitting wool specialist.

Briefly

DURADA DOUBLES

Vehicle distribution and engineering group Durada Holdings more than doubled pre-tax profits from £364,000 to £835,000, including £269,000 exceptional profits in property sales. Earnings a share rose 4.5p to 12.4p, and turnover from £14.2m to £44.9m. Final dividend up from 5.75p gross to 6.35p.

FOURMILLERS JUMPS

On turnover up from £8.1m to £9.6m for the year to January 1, 1976, pre-tax profits of £500,000 to £600,000 climbed from £72,000 to £60,000. Earnings rose from 7.01p to 8.15p. Payout raised from 7.78p gross to 8.56p.

HANGER INVESTMENTS

Pre-tax profit increased almost fivefold from \$101,000 to \$501,000 in 1976, on turnover increased from \$19.7m to \$27.3m. Dividend up from 6.35p gross to 6.52p.

LIDEN (BOLDINGS)

Loss for year to November 30, £14,000, against loss of £100,000, after tax credit of £97,000 (debit of £13,000 last year). Sales £3.28m (£3.22m). No dividend (same).

GREENFIELD MILLETTS

"Turnover is considerably ahead in the first five months of the present financial year," said Mr Richard Greenfield, chairman, at the annual meeting. "We are looking for another record year to make it the twelfth record year in succession."

DELTA METAL

Delta Metal's offer of new ord 25p each of Delta in exchange for the cancellation of the whole of its outstanding 7.5 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock £84.85 is now unconditional.

RIPLEYVEST

Revenue (after tax) for year to February 28 up from £849,000 to £43,000. Total gross payment cut from 5.44p to 6.05p.

RAKE AND SCHULL

Chairman told annual meeting that trading is continuing at a "most satisfactory level" and that the board is confident this will be maintained for remainder of year.

EWBOLD & BURTON

Newbold and Burton Holdings' trading "is encouraging" favourable, Mr V. F. Burton, chairman, told annual meeting.

Hill Samuel Base Rate

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited announce that with effect from today, Friday, April 1, 1977, their Base Rate for lending will be reduced from 10½ per cent to 9½ per cent per annum.

Interest payable under the Bank's Demand Deposit Scheme on sums of £500 up to £100,000 will be at the rate of 6½ per cent per annum. Interest rates for larger amounts will be quoted on application.

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited
100 Wood Street
London EC2P 2AJ
Telephone: 01-628 8011

Newcomer East Sussex powers Aurora but borrowings burgeon

By Nicholas Hirst
A 52 per cent increase in Sheffield engineering group Aurora Holdings' annualised profits to £2.1m in the year ended December 31 looks good. But an £640,000 of it came from an advance to a maiden, nine-month contribution from the recently acquired foundry equipment group, East Sussex Engineering. Sales grew by 54 per cent to 22.8m.

There was no contribution from the precision casting company, G. L. Whinian, acquired from the receiver. But its acquisition cost of £500,000 and the £3.2m cash paid for East Sussex were the major factors in a rise in bank borrowings

from £508,000 to a figure around £2.1m. This pushed net financial gearing to 97 per cent of capital employed.

A planned sale of assets will release nearly £1m later this year when Whinian should contribute about £250,000 in profits. And 1978 is expected to be the major growth year for East Sussex, from a large contract in Poland.

Best performers last year were machine tool merchanting and the manufacture of industrial plant. But industrial activity stayed flat and demand for most products was not high.

As demand improves this year fasteners, particularly sales in

More streamlining of Anglo A unlikely

By Christopher Wilkins

There is little likelihood of further rationalisation of the Anglo American Corporation empire once its bid for Rand Selection is complete, Mr Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of Anglo, indicated in London yesterday.

Official investment will double to £1.4m next year but with stocks accounting for around two-thirds of the balance sheet total, there is a potentially large requirement for working capital.

Profits are given both on an annualised basis and for the full 18 month accounting period to December 31 which results from a change of year. The 18 month period was £2.4m on 12.29p. The final dividend is 3.3p gross. Annualised earnings were 24.1p.

Good growth helped by currency gains continues at Crawley-based APV Holdings, which last year took over Hall-Thermotank for shares and loan stock. In 1976, turnover climbed from £98.1m to £137.4m, and pre-tax profits rose from £9.19m to a record £12.6m. The gross payment goes up by the maximum from 3.96p to 4.36p.

Prospering APV full of work

Good growth helped by currency gains continues at Crawley-based APV Holdings, which last year took over Hall-Thermotank for shares and loan stock. In 1976, turnover climbed from £98.1m to £137.4m, and pre-tax profits rose from £9.19m to a record £12.6m. The gross payment goes up by the maximum from 3.96p to 4.36p.

Sirdar sights peak

Despite rising wool prices pressing on margins, Sirdar, the Yorkshire-based hand-knitting yarns group, pushed forward its pre-tax profits from £504,000 to £507,000 in the half year to January 14. The dividend rises from 1.6p to 1.7p gross.

With the current phase of plant replacement almost complete, the board, under Mrs Jean Tyrrell, expects profits for the full year to exceed the record £942,000 of 1975/76. Turnover went up in both value and volume.

Appleyard over £1m and rising

British Leyland distributor Appleyard Group pushed up pre-tax profits by 38 per cent to £1.37m last year—the first time it has exceeded £1m. This is better than it looks. The group accelerated in the second six months and the current year started well with profits rising 27 per cent in the first two months.

The record 1976 profits were chiefly due to a return to profits in commercial vehicles and a 25 per cent rise in profits to £978,000 in cars. Turnover rose 16 per cent to £77.3m.

Earnings a share were 11.6p against 7.97p and the dividend is 6.16p.

Desoutter excels

Following the CompAir take-over proposal—later called off—Desoutter Brothers, the engineering group, is hoisting its 1976 dividend from 12.06p to 13.59p gross. Pre-tax profits were well over the forecast made at the time of CompAir's approach, and were 46 per cent up at a record £2.5m.

Turnover went up from £10.2m to £13.4m. Earnings a share were 27.38p, against 20.03p.

The current year should be "at least" as good.

B. Matthews soars

With a further substantial rise seen for the current year, the Bernard Matthews turkey

group more than doubled its pre-tax profits in the year to January 2 to a record £2.47m.

Sales went up from £8.5m to £15m. Earnings a share were 28.98p against 11.8p and the dividend rises from 11.55p gross to 12.69p per cent.

Luxembourg key turns on P Lane

Percy Lane, the aluminium window manufacturer, almost trebled profits in 1976 despite continuing problems in the home market. After a 41 per cent rise in sales, pre-tax profits climbed to £292,000 to which the Luxembourg supplies of caravan window frames contributed £70,000.

In the meantime, Percy Lane, vehicle and caravan supplier in Britain, is recovering.

The shares were unchanged at 45p (showing a 50 per cent rise since January), but under the Treasury's dividend recovery rules, the gross total climbs from the 1975 base to a total of 4.37p per share where the yield is almost 10 per cent.

Austin Reed tops £2m

Menwear retailers and manufacturers, Austin Reed Group, topped £2m for first time. On sales up from £26.1m to £31.3m for year to January 31, pre-tax profits increased from £1.09m to £2.01m. Earnings a share of 9.2p against 6.5p and total dividend raised from 3.65p gross to 3.92p.

Combined English

Pre-tax profit up from £4.35m to £4.61m in the year to January 29 as reported by Combined English Stores Group. Sales climbed from £51.4m to £54.5m. Earnings a share rose from 11.88p to 12.37p and the dividend from 4.06p gross to 4.67p. Cash balances on January 29 amounted to more than £5.5m.

Royal Worcester

Although it did not match the record £2.25m profit of 1974, Royal Worcester boosted pre-tax profits from £1.2m to £2m last year.

Sales of the group, which takes in fine china, earthenware and industrial ceramics, rose from £19.1m to £26.7m. Earnings a share were 14.2p against 12p and the dividend goes up from 8p to 8.5p gross.

SELISKWE-KADIMA

Selikwe Gold Mining & Finance is to bid for Kaduna Syndicate. Terms are for every seven Kaduna, five Selikwe ordinary and five units of participation. Units will not carry interest and will not be listed. Irrevocable underwriting received for 58.25 per cent of Kaduna.

REXMORE ROSENTHAL

Contracts exchanged for acquisition of Rexmore Rosenthal & Sons from March 1. Price will be equivalent to net tangible assets at that date. At December 31, the consortium to £1.25m. Of this £825,000 was advances at bank.

ASH & LACY

On sales increased from £16.7m to £24m for 1976, pre-tax profit £1.77m against £1.11m. Earnings a share rose from 13.6p to 21p. Total gross payment cut from 8.32p gross to 8.5p.

BROWN AND JACKSON

Turnover for 1976 up from £8.55m to £10.4m and profits (after tax) up from £256,000 to £313,000. Total gross payment cut from 3.03p gross to 3.38p.

MENGERS CLEARED

Following proposed mergers not to be referred to Monopolies Commission: EMI-Development Securities; English China Clays-Boddy Industries.

INT COMBUSTION

Pre-tax profit of International Combustion (Holdings) for 1976 up from £906,000 to £1.78m. Total gross payment raised from 1p to 1.1p.

RAKE AND SCHULL

Chairman told annual meeting that trading is continuing at a "most satisfactory level" and that the board is confident this will be maintained for remainder of year.

EWBOLD & BURTON

Newbold and Burton Holdings' trading "is encouraging" favourable, Mr V. F. Burton, chairman, told annual meeting.

More streamlining of Anglo A unlikely

By Christopher Wilkins

There is little likelihood of further rationalisation of the Anglo American Corporation empire once its bid for Rand Selection is complete, Mr Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of Anglo, indicated in London yesterday.

Official investment will double to £1.4m next year but with stocks accounting for around two-thirds of the balance sheet total, there is a potentially large requirement for working capital.

Profits are given both on an annualised basis and for the full 18 month accounting period to December 31 which results from a change of year. The 18 month period was £2.4m on 12.29p.

As demand improves this year fasteners, particularly sales in

the United States, are leaping ahead. Elsewhere benefits should flow from the sell-offs and rationalisations of the last few years.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Lower on profit taking

Account Days : Dealings Begun, March 28, Dealings End, April 7. 5 Contango Day, April 12. Settlement Day, April 20

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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Group	Div Yield	High Low	Stock	Price Chg/price % P/E	Group	Div Yield	High Low	Stock	Price Chg/price % P/E	Group	Div Yield	High Low	Stock	Price Chg/price % P/E	Group	Div Yield	High Low	Stock	Price Chg/price % P/E	Group	Div Yield	High Low	Stock	Price Chg/price % P/E
BRITISH FUNDS					COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL					INSURANCE					INVESTMENT TRUSTS					OIL				
A-B					A-B					A-B					A-B					A-B				
AAH	3.07	3.07	3014	-1.00	AAH	3.05	3.05	3020	-0.50	AAH	3.04	3.04	3021	-0.50	AAH	3.03	3.03	3022	-0.50	AAH	3.02	3.02	3023	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3024	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3025	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3026	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3027	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3028	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3027	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3028	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3029	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3030	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3031	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3032	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3033	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3034	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3035	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3036	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3037	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3038	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3039	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3040	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3041	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3042	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3043	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3044	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3045	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3046	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3047	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3048	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3049	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3050	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3051	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3052	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3053	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3054	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3055	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3056	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3057	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3058	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3059	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3060	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3061	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3062	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3063	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3064	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3065	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3066	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3067	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3068	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3069	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3070	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3071	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3072	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3073	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3074	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3075	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3076	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3077	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3078	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3079	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3080	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3081	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3082	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3083	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3084	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3085	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3086	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3087	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3088	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3089	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3090	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3091	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3092	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3093	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3094	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3095	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3096	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3097	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3098	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3099	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3100	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3101	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3102	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3103	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3104	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3105	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3106	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3107	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3108	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3109	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3110	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3111	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3112	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3113	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3114	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3115	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3116	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3117	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3118	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3119	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3120	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3121	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3122	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3123	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3124	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3125	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3126	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3127	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3128	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3129	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3130	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3131	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3132	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3133	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3134	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3135	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3136	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3137	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3138	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3139	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3140	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3141	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3142	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3143	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3144	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3145	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3146	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3147	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3148	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3149	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3150	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3151	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3152	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3153	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3154	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3155	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3156	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3157	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3158	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3159	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3160	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3161	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3162	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01	3163	-0.50	ABG	1.00	1.00	3164	-0.50	ABG	0.99	0.99	3165	-0.50	ABG	0.98	0.98	3166	-0.50
ABG	1.02	1.02	3167	-0.50	ABG	1.01	1.01																	



£6,000 plus Appointments



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The Secretary,

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD

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APPOINTMENT OF NEW

DIRECTOR

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The Director, as chief officer of F.S.U., is responsible to the National Council for the overall management and development of the Organisation. The Director is supported at National Office by a team of professional and administrative staff.

Ideally, the successful candidate should be a graduate with wide experience of social work and proven ability in management. Qualities looked for will include: sympathy with F.S.U.'s comprehensive approach to social work; a capacity for leadership in a decentralised and participative organisation; and the ability to act as an effective public spokesman.

Starting salary: £7,988 inclusive of pay supplement and London Weighting.

Full job description and literature available from the Administrative Officer.

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Closing date, 20th May, 1977.

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A Solicitor or Barrister is required by Chevron Petroleum (UK) Limited to strengthen its legal department, engaged in the development of a major North Sea oilfield and other projects.

Ideally the successful candidate should have 4/5 years related experience in the Petroleum Industry and be familiar with the legal implications connected with the preparation of joint venture agreements, facilities contracts and general corporate duties.

This is a senior appointment offering a career opportunity to a man or woman in the age group 30-40 years of age.

Please apply, in writing, to
Chevron Petroleum (UK) Ltd
(Personnel Department) Chevron House
93 Wigmore Street, London W1H 8AA

chevron petroleum (uk) ltd.

The Preseli District covers the major part of Pembrokeshire and includes part of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, containing magnificent coastal, mountain and river scenery and with ample opportunities for outdoor recreational pursuits, particularly sailing and fishing.

DISTRICT SECRETARY

£7,758-£8,415 p.a. plus £312 supplement

Due to the appointment of the previous post-holder as Chief Executive with another Authority, applications are invited for this post from competent administrators with relevant experience and proven managerial ability at a senior level, preferably in local government. Possession of a professional qualification is essential, and as a Chief Officer, the successful applicant will be a member of the Management Team. The District Secretary will be expected to play a full part in management, and the Department is responsible for the provision of Legal, Valuation and Estates, Electoral and Administrative Services to the Council.

Intending applicants are invited to telephone Haverfordwest (0646 4267), or write for an application form and further details to F. H. Maslin, Personnel Officer, Preseli District Council, Camber House, P.O. Box 27, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP.

Closing date: Monday 25th April, 1977.

Preseli District Council

The Heart of Pembrokeshire

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

£6,500-£7,500 p.a.

The Metropolitan Housing Trust is a registered charity and Housing Association which provides new and improved housing for people in housing need. It has annual capital works programme in excess of £5 million. A new post of Financial Controller has been created, and applications are invited from qualified and experienced accountants who are capable of planning and managing the finances of the Trust, as well as heading the Accounts Department.

This post offers a challenging opportunity for an accountant who has a record of success at management level, and who now seeks responsibility for controlling the financial affairs of a substantial housing agency.

Application form and job description can be obtained from: Metropolitan Housing Trust Ltd, Northstar House, 556 Holloway Road, London, N.7. Tel: 01-263 4501.

TAX SPECIALIST

We are seeking a specialist adviser in the field of corporation and personal taxation.

The successful applicant is likely to have been engaged for at least the last four years primarily on tax matters and to be a solicitor, a barrister, a chartered accountant or an inspector of taxes.

The successful applicant will be called upon to advise on the tax aspects of transactions within the office and to advise individual clients directly on their taxation affairs.

A high salary will be negotiated and the successful applicant can look forward to a challenging and rewarding long-term career.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Norfolk Agricultural Station, Morley, Wymondham, Norfolk NR10 8DS.

Applications should be submitted on or before 15th June, 1977.

Head of Social Survey Division £11,785

The Social Survey Division of the OPCS conducts surveys of the general population and household expenditure on behalf of all major government departments dealing with social policy. Projects range from family expenditure and general household surveys to labour force surveys and studies of health. The results of the surveys and the thought and effort which go into their design and execution are a major factor in the formulation, planning and evaluation of government social and economic policies.

The Head of the Division is responsible for maintaining collective policy on survey methods for collecting statistics and on the conduct of social research; for managing the division's resources; for leading groups and for ensuring that surveys are carried out in a highly professional

manner. The Division employs some 220 staff (160 of whom are professionals) and 60 survey clerks) and a large number of part-time field interviewers.

Candidates must have a good background in social statistics and a knowledge of relevant academic disciplines together with considerable relevant experience and the ability to manage a major research team. Relevant degree or professional qualification advantageous.

Non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 28 April 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, 100 Victoria Embankment, EC4S 8EE (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/8805/2.

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Middle East Appointments

DOHA-QATAR

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Varied and interesting duties.

Salaries £2,000 per month.

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01-580 6261

Kensington

01-580 6262

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KNIGHTSBRIDGE

We are looking for an intelligent person to help us run our business.

You'll be recruiting your own staff and running your own business.

Work is varied and a very good potential will be needed.

Excellent working conditions. Age immaterial. Good negotiable salary.

Salary negotiable.

RECEPTIONIST/ TELEPHONIST

On Co. Cheltenham

Adaptable person with pleasant personality required by young, fast growing company.

Good telephone skills.

Good organisational ability.

Good negotiable salary.

For appointment please ring Julie Barnett, 01-730 4865.

FLORISTS

We seek an experienced Florist to help open and run our shop in Cheltenham.

You'll be recruiting your own staff and running your own business.

Work is varied and a very good potential will be needed.

Excellent working conditions. Age immaterial. Good negotiable salary.

For appointment please ring Sue Thompson, 01-529 5405 or after 5: 01-525 0225.

Or write to Miss Barnett, 25 Montague St., G.W.7.

SECRETARIAL

required for Director of Cheltenham Estate Agency. Good character and strong essential. Ability set on own initiative and negotiable. Telephone : 01-235 33000.

PARIS : Top Culture Attendant. £900-1,000 p.w. For more info please telephone Jagger Care, 01-520 0100.

SECRETARY

required for Director of Cheltenham Estate Agency. Good character and strong essential. Ability set on own initiative and negotiable. Work immediate start.

Call Kathy, 01-235 3072.

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CITY AND WEST END

TEMPS

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SECRETARIAL

**SECRETARY
TO DIRECTOR**

One of our main board directors requires a secretary of high calibre and administrative ability. He needs someone to organise appointments; who can arrange entertainment and receptions for clients with diplomacy whilst he is away. Plenty of energy and self control is necessary together with a willingness to work beyond normal office hours. Preferred age over 30.

Salary according to age and experience, £1,000 and excellent fringe benefits.

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**TRAINING
CONSULTANCY**

Needs capable and versatile SECRETARY to join team of two assistance consultants and one administrative assistant. Age 30-50+. Hours: 8am-6pm. 9.30 to 5.00. Or 4 hours per day between 12.00 and 4.00. £1,000 p.w. plus £100 per hour for part-time hours. Pleasant small office near Central Circus and West End. Excellent fringe benefits. Details for telephone to Patriotic Law, Industrial Training Service, 73-75 Mortimer Street, London, W.C. 1. Tel: 01-576 7114.

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE

The Programme Director of the National Film Theatre on the South Bank requires a

SECRETARY.

With fast and accurate shorthand/typewriting skills to work quickly and accurately in undertaking administrative and organisational work. Details to: 23-27 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1. Tel: 01-580 0000.

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